# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

If Budget Ax Falls

#### **Worst-Case** Scenario for **Local Schools**

By Geraldine Lanier

On March 15, "pink slips" warning of possible job layoffs were received by 1.260 teachers, counselors, and librarians in San Francisco. On the same day, a rally was held at City Hall, in which parents, students, teachers, and administrators marched to local legislators' offices, to protest the fact that the future of public education is hanging in the balance. Even School Superintendent Ramon Cortines participated in the march, admitting that this was the most "demoralizing" thing he's ever had to do for the sake of public education.

The layoff notices were sent in preparation for budget cuts that could result if Gov. Pete Wilson's proposal to suspend Proposition 98 is approved by the state legislature. Prop. 98, passed in 1988, guarantees education a 40 percent share of the state's general fund. Without it, the public school budget in San Francisco will be cut by \$25 million (\$2 billion statewide). This would be in addition to the \$7 million (\$.5 billion statewide) that has already been cut, due to California's current economic woes.

In short, public schools stand to lose \$32 million over a period of 18 months.

How would Noe Valley's public schools be affected by the cuts, given the worstcase scenario? The Voice asked this question of several local principals last month,



By Jeanne Alexander

**Rob Morse** 

Rob Morse peers out the front window of his house and signals that the front steps are around the corner. The unexpected greeting is one of several small surprises that have surfaced in setting up an interview with this San Francisco Examiner columnist. He answers his own phone when he's in the office, or if he's not in, his voice on the answering machine is so natural that a caller mistakenly begins to talk to him. And he doesn't look much like his picture—mayhe it's the shorter hair and salt-and-pepper beard he has now.

Slouching comfortably on the living room couch, in a cream-colored sweater, chinos, and moccasins, Morse looks like a college professor, one who might find a number of female students signing up

"I'm an informal sort of person, a Noe Valley person atl the way," he declares.

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Arts programs, libraries, computer centers, and music activities, such as this band practice at James Lick Middle School, may be among the casualties if stringent cuts in the state's education hudget go through this spring. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

"We may lose two classroom teachers, our librarian, and the music teacher," said Jack Moulthrop, principal of Fairmount Elementary School, at 65 Chenery St. Fairmount currently has 444 students and 20 teachers.

"We may also lose our computer lab and support staff. And I don't see how teachers can be laid off and not have class sizes increase."

Moulthrop added that Fairmount's li-

hrary, for many years one of the most efficient media centers in the district. would get a big jolt if the budget cuts go through. "Our librarians have been teaching librarians," not just 'check-out' librarians," he explained. "With the loss of a trained librarian like ours, the language arts program would be affected dramatically.

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When he's not gathering cogent observations for his Examiner column, Rob Morse shops the streets of Noe Valley on his bicycle. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

#### The First Step **Toward Quake Preparedness** Is a 'Big One'

By Larry Beresford

Disaster planning experts all agree that preparation for the next major earthquake must happen at the local level. The media have publicized preparedness techniques for the home and family. The San Francisco Mayor's Office of Emergency Services has free brochures for the asking, and Pacific Bell's White Pages dedicates four pages to earthquake tips. However, few of these sources emphasize the need for organizing with your neighbors.

In the first 72 hours after the "Big One," when transportation, telephone service, water, gas, and electricity are all disrupted, you may have to rely on your immediate neighbors. You may already know how to shut off your own gas line to prevent fires, but what about your nextdoor neighbor's gas lines? What if they aren't around to do it?

People on your block with special needs-such as the elderly, handicapped, and parents of small childrenmay need the assistance of those with special skills, like medical or first-aid training. And it could be a lifesaver if there were a set of recognized visual signals, so that you and your neighbors could let one another know you were either all right or in need of help.

However, this vitally important, blockby-block earthquake planning has proven somewhat elusive. At the city level, there are questions about who's responsible for funding and promoting such neighborhood planning. At the grassroots level, a resident must take the initiative to knock

Cantinued on Page 6

#### Crime News Does Pay

Editor:

I'm a resident, shopper, and stroller of Noe Valley. I'm a reader of yours, and I appreciate your awakening us to the incidents of crime and their details.

I object to a reader of yours who suggested in a February letter to the editor that you stop covering crime stories. Those who wish to blithely ignore problems in the area and risk being victimized will always do so. When they become the 50th purse-snatch victim in some month, they will rail that "someone" should have let them know to be on their guard.

You're doing an important service. Please keep it up.

Jim Lewis Fair Oaks Street

Editor's note: We also got a letter from Rence Schaible Lewis, expressing similar support for crime reporting. "Crime does not go away by being swept under the rug," she pointed out. Thanks to you both for coming to our defense, and we'll do our best to keep tabs on crime in the future.

#### A Push for Noe Courts' Jungle-Gym

Editor:

Thank you for the glowing Easter egg hunt "Short Take" in the March issue, which publicized our Noe Courts fundraiser. I would like to make a correction, though. I am a sales associate and not a realtor—an important technicality.

Also, I would like to let you know that my partner Richard Fontana and I are actively working with the city of San Francisco to purchase and install a new jungle-gym at Noe Courts, as a replacement for the "bubble" climbing structure removed last summer.

The park has been without a play structure for close to a year now, so our intent is to get the jungle-gym in as soon as possible. Currently, the city has allotted about \$6,000 for its purchase, but still needs \$3,000 for the installation.

This is where we come in: Richard and I would like to invite our Noe Valley neighbors—residents, merchants, and schools—to contribute to the Noe Courts

## LETTERS 29¢



Erica Green and Richard Fontana, of Mullins & Company, are helping raise money to install this specially designed play structure in the sandbox at Noe Courts. See Letters, this page.

fundraising campaign. As of mid-March, we had about \$300, but we'd love to come up with the entire \$3,000, so we can hurry up the city and get the play structure installed by the end of April.

If you didn't get a chance to attend our Easter fundraiser, you can mail a check to Mullins & Company, 700 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114, and we'll pass it along to the city. (Checks should be made out to the Friends of the S.F. Recreation and Park Department, and earmarked for "Noe Courts improvements.") Your donation is tax-deductible, and please rest assured that if we go over our goal, any additional funds will be used only for Noe Courts.

Thank you to all those who have already made contributions. Together, the neighbors and businesses of Noe Valley can work with the city for the benefit of the whole community.

Erica Green Mullins & Company Diamond and Elizabeth

#### Hang up on AT&T

Editor:

The long-distance company AT&T has cut off its funding for Planned Parenthood. We are angry about this, and have decided to boycott all AT&T services.

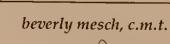
The AT&T Foundation argues that it has withdrawn funding because Planned Parenthood gets too much media attention for its efforts on behalf of the right of women to abortion.

We think that is not a sincere argument, since the wide range of services offered by Planned Parenthood has not changed. The extreme political pressures and illegal "picketing" by religious groups has forced Planned Parenthood into the glare of headlines and media-oriented sensationalism.

We are disappointed that AT&T did not have the courage to stand up to the political-Christian groups. Other companies have not been intimidated, but have maintained their funding of Planned Parenthood.

We urge other like-minded people to boycott AT&T by switching long-distance service and returning their AT&T "Universal" VISA cards.

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#### Was Fred Overbred Too?

Editor:

As a subscriber to Allen's Clipping Service, we at the Corona del Norte Kennel receive all national media references to canine events, especially those concerning the Santa Barbara area.

Our first response to the clipping from the *Noe Valley Voice* regarding Fred the dog [the subject of Florence Holub's Family Album in the March issue] was a chuckle and a toss. But our revered registrar here, Blanche Massingham, was reminded of an episode that took place in 1965—about the same time the little terrier showed up tagging along after Florence's son Jan, who was returning home from college in Santa Barbara.

During that period, we had among our stable of males for stud purposes a terrier of impeccable lineage, Ch. Gustav Hus of Savonlinna, acquired at great cost from the estate of the Marchese di San Veratrino. He was much in demand, as his progeny were winning "best of breed" honors at Long Island, Cape Lauderdale, Durban.

His mating with Ch. Hildegarde had produced a litter of two females and a striking black male. One of the females exhibited negative signs of over-breeding and was dropped from the line. The remaining pups were prime specimens, and we held high hopes for the future of Danielle and Johannes.

One afternoon when he was about six months of age, during the excitement of having lawn tents erected for an upcoming visit by the Prince of Wales, Johannes evaded his handler and either followed off after the caterers' truck or was abducted by the tent-riggers. Offers of reward were fruitless, except that they elicited two sightings near the Santa Barbara Greyhound bus depot, but each time we went in pursuit, he had vanished before our arrival.

We naturally regret our financial loss in this matter, but, as dog-lovers and humanists, we are pleased to learn that Johannes (or "Fred" as he came to be called), while not able to enjoy the glamorous life for which he was destined, at least survived a lengthy and "interesting" life in our second-most favorite city: San Francisco.

Major Archibald Cockburn-Bond, Ret. Kennelmaster, Corona del Norte Kennel Santa Barbara

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#### THE NOE VALLEY VOICE 1021 Sanchez Street San Francisco, CA 94114

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# Lesbian Rights Activists Lyon & Martin Still Breaking New Ground

By Laura Holland

From matching wicker swivel chairs, they look out the bay window of their hillside home on Duncan Street, over the breezy city whose history they've helped shape. Veterans of many battles since they first moved in together 38 years ago, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin are as fresh and spontaneous today as the wild daffodils in their yard, and they reflect upon their love, their work, and their community with enthusiasm and candor.

Back in the '50s, the two women were lesbians in the land of McCarthy, the baby boom, and Father Knows Best. They didn't have their own community. But that didn't stop them, and neither did the threat of police raids, as they and six other lesbians formed the first international lesbian organization—the Daughters of Bilitis—in 1955. A magazine especially for lesbians, The Ladder, followed (1956–1972). Thus a worldwide movement began.

"When you get involved with a movement, you evolve with it," says 69-yearold Martin. "The problems of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and '80s were all different, and the '90s are going to be different. We've gone with the flow, and we like the challenge."

Their record is impressive, not only on behalf of the lesbian community, but on behalf of all people concerned with human rights. Last December, the couple was presented with the Earl Warren Civil Liberties Award, given by the American Civil Liberties Union, for their individual and joint lifetime achievements.

"The work of these two remarkable women carved a path for one of the most important civil liberties struggles of the past quarter-century," said Elaine Elinson of the ACLU.

Together Lyon and Martin have helped found such organizations as the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, and Bay Area Feminists Against Censorship. In 1972 they co-authored *Lesbian/Woman*, a work that won the Gay Book Award from the American Library Association, and is now used as a text throughout the country.

Lyon, 66, who has a doctorate in education from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, has written and lectured widely on human sexuality, and worked in support of numerous women's and human rights organizations, including the San Francisco Human Rights Commission and San Francisco Women's Centers.

Martin, also an accomplished journalist and popular lecturer, has long campaigned against domestic violence, and is the author of *Battered Wives*, the 1976 book that helped launch a nationwide movement to establish shelters for battered women. In addition, she has been actively involved in the Bay Area Women's Coalition, Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders, and the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, to name only a few.

The scope of Lyon and Martin's commitment to women's issues over the years has been far-reaching. The shelves and walls of their home are graced with plaques and awards from a life of activism. "There are so many, we don't know where to put them all," laughs Lyon. In one corner of the living room is a pile of paper shredded by their cats Geraldine (after Ferraro) and Koala. The paper was wrapping for an orchid plant given to them recently by Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, an organization named after them.

"We named the clinic after Lyon and Martin to honor them and to be a living



Del Martin (left) and Phyllis Lyon relax in their Duncan Street homestead, where they're working on an update of their pioneering book Lesbian/Woman, as well as a treatise on feminism and pornography. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

legacy to their spirit and politics," says Marj Plumb, executive director of the center. "The clinic started as a lesbian clinic, which was very radical 11 years ago, and that is what Del and Phyl remind me of. They started things before anyone else thought it was possible. Having their name associated with the clinic is a constant reminder of not what is possible today, but to do what isn't possible today. It's an interesting thing that happens to you when you start working here, and you realize the impact those two people had on such a huge community. If we could honor them by following in their footsteps just a little way down the path, then we'll be doing a very good thing.'

One important step on the path for Lyon and Martin was the 1960 convention of the Daughters of Bilitis in San Francisco. "The convention was a great highlight," says Lyon. "Over 200 people came, which at that time made it the largest gathering of gays and lesbians that ever happened."

Another highlight was the International Women's Year Conference in Houston in 1977. "We got a lesbian rights plank into the national women's agenda," says Martin. "The hot issues were abortion, lesbian rights, and the Equal Rights Amendment, and some people were afraid that dealing with lesbian/gay rights might jeopardize the E.R.A." The agenda was adopted by conference delegates and presented to President Carter. Unfortunately, it died in Carter's office, but Lyon and Martin remained undaunted.

"Despite such setbacks as Anita Bryant, Jerry Fallwell, and ordinances that got voted down, our gains have been

greater than our losses, which is very interesting," says Martin. "The more struggles we have," adds Lyon, "the stronger we become. I think the last election year in San Francisco, which some people call the lavender sweep, is indicative of that." (Two lesbians won seats on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, among other victories.)

An early role model for both Lyon and Martin was Eleanor Roosevelt, "We were both raised in the Roosevelt era, and were avid listeners to the fireside chats. And we are both Democrats who grew up being more liberal than our parents," says Martin. Another strong influence was Vera Plunkett, a San Francisco chiropractor. Back in the 1950s, Plunkett helped them get space for public meetings in the downtown building where she had her practice.

"Vera took us aside one time and asked us what we were doing all this for. She kept after us until we admitted we were doing it for ourselves. She tried to get across to us to not become martyrs, and not get upset if others weren't getting involved. That has served us in very good stead," says Martin.

"Nobody had heard of burnout back then," adds Lyon. "I think burnout happens as a result of people becoming martyrs—thinking they're the only ones who can do anything, and that nobody appreciates them, loves them."

Because of her support for lesbian and gay causes, Plunkett, who was heterosexual, was investigated by the San Francisco Chiropractic Board. "They wanted to find out if she was lesbian, but she said, 'I don't ask you what you do in bed,

and I'm certainly not going to tell you what I do," recalled Lyon. "She scared them to death. They would have thought 16 times before they did anything to Vera."

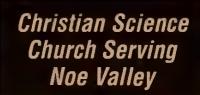
The couple is presently working on an update of *Lesbian/Woman*, by adding a couple more chapters covering events of the last 20 years. It will be published by Volcano Press, a woman-owned publishing company in Volcano, Calif. "Usually when you get a book out, you have to tour the country to peddle it, because your publishers don't," says Martin. "So we'll be traveling around the country when it comes out in the fall."

They also intend to write a book on feminism and pornography, a topic they feel is very complicated, and that has not yet been dealt with satisfactorily. "A lot of women are trying to blame violence against women, and child abuse, on pornography, but wife-beating existed before pornography. The problem in our country is that we are so sex-negative. When we try to get rid of sexual material, we get rid of all of it," says Martin.

"What we need are more sex-positive materials and good sex education for youngsters. That's where we would be coming from [in writing the book]," adds Lyon.

"I'm not sure we can do it either, but

Continued on Page 4



Sermon for Sunday April 14:

"Are Sin, Disease and Death Real?"

"...I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me."

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#### Neighborhood Schools on the Chopping Block

Continued from Page 1

"Losing teachers," Moulthrop said, "means that some may be replaced by senior teachers who will come from somewhere else within the district. But it's really tough losing young teachers who are enthusiastic about what they do here. Secondary schools are being hit a lot harder than elementary, but we'll all be affected."

James Lick Middle School, at 25th and Noe, has a student body of 581, with 43 teachers. Although most of Lick's teachers will be exempt from layoffs (because Lick has special status as a "consent decree" school), its curriculum will still be altered.

"There'll be some impact on funds, depending on the Proposition 98 decision. And it'll change what we do," said Principal Mary Lou Mendoza Mason. "We may have a five-period day instead of six, meaning that there would be no electives—music, art, technology, drama, and computers. There would be no year-book staff or home economics, we could lose some of our counseling staff, and our full-time librarian would be replaced by a part-time person."

Lick's music program, which includes a school band, would also be severely cut back. Mason added, although "there may be a music option offered to students on Saturdays" at other locations in the city.

Mason noted that schools with an enrollment of under 700 students might lose their assistant principals. In addition, she expressed concern for students in special education classes: if the district's attempt to reduce busing succeeds, these students may have to take public transportation. Their class sizes would also increase.

Vince Matthews, principal at Alvarado

Elementary School, 625 Douglass St., declared that the proposed cuts "would affect us drastically." Out of 30 teachers, he said, "We will lose six or seven," who would be replaced by teachers or administrators with more seniority, but less familiarity with Alvarado. "And our library and science resource teachers, all except for one, may go," he added.

Basic classroom supplies, such as paper and pencils, for Alvarado's student population of 482, will become even more limited, Matthews noted. "The school budget of \$20 per child will be lowered to \$18 per child, which is a loss of \$1,000—a fourth of our entire budget. But our hardest cut will be losing teachers, and having to increase class size from 23 to about 32.

"Another concern is that there may be cutbacks in school-yard supervision. Then, problems that sometimes evolve among students at recess will carry back into the classrooms."

At Buena Vista Alternative School, located at 30th and Noe streets, the stability of the school's special "Spanish-immersion" program, where all students become fluent in both English and Spanish, would be seriously threatened by the proposed round of budget cuts. The program was developed eight years ago, and has evolved into a national model for bilingual education.

"Since we have the only Spanishimmersion program in the city," explained Linda Luevano, Buena Vista's principal, "we train our own teachers, who make commitments to team-teaching, using appropriate strategies and instruction in two languages. If we lose part of our staff, the remaining staff will have to train any replacement teachers, which will be time-consuming."

"Unfortunately, our newest teachers, who have great vitality, will be lost," said Jennie Rodriquez, the school's P.T.A. copresident. "They are special teachers who are needed. They have to deal with immersion up to eight hours a day, but they love what they do."

Buena Vista has 322 students and 15 teachers. Nine teachers, some of whom are part-timers, have received layoff notices. Five of those teachers comprise the entire fourth- and lifth-grade staff. But because they are "long-term substitutes" (teachers who are laid off every year, then re-hired the next year) instead of tenured teachers, there is little hope that they will be rehired for the 1991 school year.

"One of our fifth-grade teachers developed the entire fifth-grade curriculum," noted Linda Kiefer, an active parent. "If she isn't re-hired, it'll be devastating to the immersion program."

Parents at Buena Vista have united by lorming two committees to voice their concerns about the budget cuts. One committee is now working on a plan that would exempt core Buena Vista staff from layoffs. The other committee is leading a Buena Vista letter-writing campaign to state legislators, to protest the proposed suspension of Proposition 98.

Community members who are interested in joining the defense of public schools should write letters too, or hook up with San Franciscans Unified, a coalition of organizations and individuals lobbying for public education, by calling 621-4438. (San Franciscans Unified, along with activist Jesse Jackson, will participate in a march on Sacramento April 3, starting on the east side of the state capitol building at 4 p.m.)

The state legislature must vote on the proposed cuts by July 1.



#### Lyon & Martin

Continued from Page 3

we want to try to lay it all out, because anti-porn feminists would not speak to our anti-censorship feminist task force, and you don't really solve a problem that way. You need to think about it, and come up with a solution," Martin says.

The two women actually began the project two years ago, but were sidetracked by the June 1989 fire that destroyed a house two doors away on Duncan Street. Their own home was dainaged, and they had to rebuild the west side, redo the roof, reshingle, repaint, and put in a new electrical system. In addition, they were not able to move hack in until January of 1990.

"Our place would have really gone up if it hadn't been for neighborhood people calling," says Lyon. "The police chief said if 911 hadn't been called at the first whisp of smoke, the whole block could have gone."

As members of a neighborhood-watch program, started by the Duncan-Newburg Neighborhood Association, Lyon and Martin also channel some of their activist energy into the immediate community. Martin recalls the time when the association helped block the construction of a six-story condominium nearby. "It would have been a big fortress that blocked views and sun. It was totally oversized for this area. But the association took the matter on, and the project is smaller now."

As far as general neighborhood improvements go, Lyon would like to see a cleaner 24th Street. "Papers and things like that are always blowing around and sitting in doorways." she says. "I don't know why they can't keep it clean."

Chances are good that, if Lyon and Martin "took the matter on," our neighborhood's main drag would be shipshape in no time.

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# Elizabeth St. Takes Bell To Task for Bad Manners

By Jeanne Alexander and Sally Smith

In the year since Quality Foods International (QFI) took over 24th Street's Bell Market, life has not exactly been a bowl of cherries for residents of the 400 block of Elizabeth Street.

In fact, during the supermarket's recent remodeling, Bell Market has seemed more like "Hell Market" to its back-door neighbors.

"Last summer I noticed things changing," said Marty Birkenthal, of 456 Elizaheth St. "But I put my feelings on the back burner to be tolerant of what Bell needed to do. Then the truck deliveries began to increase. Sometimes three large vans double-parked behind each other, tying up half the block, with engines running while they waited to unload. Other noises increased—the can-crusher operating between 11:30 and midnight, the very loud banging of the dumpster, the refrigeration unit on the roof humming night and day. What tipped the scale was the night I came home and found the whole neighborhood lit up with highvoltage halogen lights. It was like I was on center stage in my living room."

According to Birkenthal, Bell had also started to operate "a loud internal-combustion engine forklift," and work crews were blaring their radios and shouting instructions over the din.

Birkenthal's neighbor Dolores Molina was particularly annoyed by the dump-ster that had been placed in Bell's rear driveway. "It was picked up and dropped off around 4:30 in the morning with a thud that pitched everybody out of bed thinking it was an earthquake," she said.

Fed up and not about to take it anymore, Birkenthal drew up a petition in February, in which he spelled out the Elizabeth Street residents' concerns and recommended actions that QFI should take to remedy the situation. He and Molina passed the petition around to their neighbors, and gathered over 50 signatures. "No one refused to sign," she noted.

The document states that "the new owners of Bell Market have shown little sensitivity to the quiet residential character of Elizabeth Street, as evidenced by their allowance of unacceptable levels of noise, blockage of sidewalk and street access, and creating visual blight." It asked QFI to limit the number and type



This block of Elizabeth Street between Sanchez and Noe has been plagued by noise, hright lights, and traffic congestion since Bell Market came under new ownership last year. The store's rear entrance is visible behind the huge semi, which is double-parked for delivery.

PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

of truck deliveries to Bell's back entrance, remove the dumpster and clean up the litter, put a damper on the new ventilation equipment on the roof, lower the lights, and to refrain from obstructing the sidewalk and street.

After holding a meeting with his neighbors Feb. 28, Birkenthal mailed the petition to QFI, along with a copy of the San Francisco Planning Commission rules that authorized the market's original construction.

Back in 1964, Bell had obtained a permit to build the rear entrance, but only on the condition that no trucks be parked outside the loading dock, no merchandise or garbage containers be stored in the area, that all open spaces be appropriately landscaped, and that sidewalks and driveways be kept free of debris. The permit also required that all artificial lighting of the market and parking lot "be directed downward and away from" adjacent residential property. It added that city approval was "predicated upon the expectation... that this truck dock structure will be used mainly for approximately two deliveries per week by large trucks and for storage of one small truck."

In his March 5 cover letter to QFI, Birkenthal said that the Elizabeth Street residents looked forward to meeting with store representatives and "working together amicably" to restore some peace and quiet to the neighborhood.

Since then, "we have received a very conciliatory reply from QFI President Harley Delano," Birkenthal reports, "but the ball is still very much in his court."

In his written response, Delano denied prior knowledge of the Planning Department's restrictions, but said he would research them. He also declared that the company "had every intention of being as good a neighbor as possible," He added that he would respond further when he had "more knowledge of dates and times in which we may be able to comply." (The *Voice* was unable to reach Delano personally, but his secretary confirmed that he was attending to Elizabeth Street's complaints.)

In the meantime, Birkenthal says he's noticed a few changes already. Smaller trucks are now parking in Bell's driveway to unload, rather than blocking the sidewalk and street, and the ear-shattering dumpster has now been removed.

The high-intensity lights, which were mounted on top of the building and on poles along the market's 24th Street frontage, have been re-aimed downward, but according to resident Ron Piccini, "they're still very bright coming in my bedroom window."

Also still troubling is Bell's rooftop

ventilation/refrigeration unit, which operates around the clock right across from Molina's bedroom window. Protruding six feet above the 20-foot height limit imposed by the Planning Commission (which also dictates that the roof be "of non-glaring material"), the unit is encased in plywood, "but I can see the metal machinery glaring top and bottom and I hear it hum all night," Molina said.

In mid-March, Bell Manager Greg Pereira said he had received a copy of Birkenthal's petition, but not Delano's reply, and that he had no direct involvement in the matter. Although company policy precluded his making any comment, he said, "I know that some things have been done."

The residents of Elizabeth Street are now waiting to see what more is going to be done

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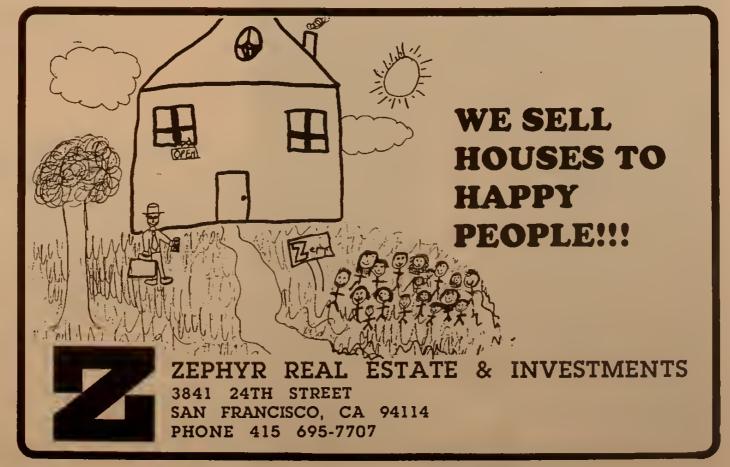
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# Quake Organizing By the Block

Continued from Page 1

on the doors of his or her neighbors and get the ball rolling.

Although some neighborhood-watch organizations, established for crime prevention, are already in place, and groups like the Friends of Noe Valley and the Upper Noe Neighbors are starting to do earthquake planning, the *Voice* was not able to uncover any established neighborhood earthquake plans in Noe Valley, as now exist in many blocks of the Marina District

One group trying to encourage the concept of grassroots organizing for earthquakes is the Neighborhood Earthquake Preparedness Coalition (NEPC), composed of representatives from local disaster relief agencies and neighborhood organizations such as Friends of Noe Valley. "Neighborhood earthquake planning is about what 20 families can do to pool their resources in a disaster, when there's no outside help," says Michael Dee Gunn, a Haight-Ashbury resident and NEPC member who is now drafting a guidebook on how to prepare a neighborhood for an earthquake.

"The people you see when you run out your front door after the Big One, they are the ones who you will depend on, so that's where you need to organize. We basically state that if a major earthquake hits, there are things you will need to decide, and you are better off deciding them in advance and agreeing as a group," rather than amid the chaos following a disaster.

Once such a group is up and running, it often acquires a life of its own, with secondary benefits such as new friendships between neighbors and even block parties. But what kind of push has there been for people to take the first step toward forming a group?

Says NEPC's Phil Klasky, "We need a

higger motivation—a city policy and an acknowledgment that we'll he lost without such neighborhood planning."

"Our approach is that each person who knows what to do for themselves in a disaster is a hencht," says Eileen Cahill Maloney, communications coordinator for the city's Office of Emergency Services.

"Our office is prepared to take any level of preparedness it can get. We're trying to get more funding. We're basically a facilitator," she adds. "The problem with organizing the neighborhood is that you have to go door to door. Most neighborhood organizations are not as organized as all that. That's why we're looking at the SAFE model."

SAFE—Safety Awareness For Everyone—provides technical advice and support for establishing neighborhood-watch groups, usually formed as a crime deterrent. There are at least 19 SAFE blocks now in Noe Valley.

One was recently organized on the west side of Sanchez Street hetween 27th and Duncan and on hoth sides of the dead-end block of Duncan, says Dennis Baldwin, who is a member. The group was initiated by three neighbors who share back yards. Baldwin says they were motivated by a rash of automobile breakins and a friend getting shot.

At the four meetings held thus far, "we have been discussing issues of safety," he says, noting that about 15 neighbors attended the most recent meeting. "The main thing is just to get to know each other, and try to get organized. We feel better knowing we can knock on each other's doors," and depend on each other to watch the home of a neighbor on vacation. However, so far this group has not gotten into earthquake planning.

One problem with the city's emphasis on SAFE is that SAFE's current contract with the San Francisco Police Department is for crime prevention organizing—not earthquake preparedness. While SAFE neighborhood-watch groups have the potential of providing a springboard for earthquake planning efforts, and while SAFE staffer Robin Barnett was instru-

mental in organizing the Neighhorhood Earthquake Response Team (NERT) in the Marina District, SAFE is not currently in a position to provide direct support to newly organizing neighborhood earthquake groups, she says. However, that could change if SAFE receives funding for earthquake planning, Barnett adds.

In the meantime, other resources include NEPC, whose dedicated volunteer members are willing to attend neighborhood organizing meetings to talk about earthquake preparations. The San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) has a 15-hour training course on earthquake disaster efforts for neighborhood emergency response teams—but only for groups that have already organized and met several times and have at least 20 members committed to participate in the training.

"We can do coordination of the training, but because we don't have the resources, we can't do recruitment," says Dennis Callahan, assistant chiel of the fire department's Earthquake Task Force. Last October the NERT group in the Marina completed this training, which emphasizes small-scale fire suppression, search and rescue, emergency medical care, and disaster psychology. Local fire department battalion chiefs can also make presentations to neighborhood groups, Callahan adds.

The Friends of Noe Valley can assist and facilitate local block-organizing efforts, "and provide what expertise we do have," says Friends Vice President Bill Kuhns. The group is also willing to share its copy of the 27-minute earthquake planning video Make Yourself a Promise: Earthquake Preparedness for Yourself and Your Community. However, the Friends are not yet in a position to initiate door-to-door, block-by-block organizing.

"I'd like to give you examples of blocks organized in Noe Valley, but I can't," Kuhns says. "Basically, there's not a lot going on, and the longer we procrastinate, the harder it will be." But while Kuhns is happy to come to neighborhood meetings and show the video, "I'm not going to knock on doors, except for my own immediate neighborhood, and even there I'm as guilty as everyhody else."

Upper Noc Neighbors may be farther along in earthquake planning than any other group in the neighborhood, although they are taking a somewhat different approach—first organizing all of Upper Noe Valley (the southern end of the neighborhood) and then going hack to organize each block. Says group member Janice Gendreau, "We think the first priority should be identifying the

most vulnerable spots"—such as parts of Church Street built on former creek beds—and locating any elderly or disabled residents.

The subject of earthquake planning was first brought up at a Neighbors' meeting last November, and interest was so strong that 25 people signed up to take the SFFD's 15-hour training later this spring.

"We've also talked about more than just training." Gendreau says. The group hopes to establish caches of disaster supplies such as hardhats, flashlights, batteries, and water at the Upper Noe Recreation Center and other neighborhood sites.

"We'll be refining our plan as we go along," Gendreau adds. Memhers who complete the SFFD training might then be able to train block captains throughout the neighborhood. "One of the problems is that people get lax and lorget. It's not as hard if the neighborhood group is ongoing."

Ultimately, however, a successful neighborhood plan must reach the block level, because "a neighborhood gets real small when things fall apart," Maloney says.

How hard is it to do that grassroots organizing? Gunn says, "I don't know how things are in Noe Valley, but I've lived here [in the Haight] for years, and I'm not sure I even know who all lives in my building these days. But the bottom line is that if you can just get to know your neighbors, know who has what skills, you'll be a lot better off. That's not such a difficult thing to do."

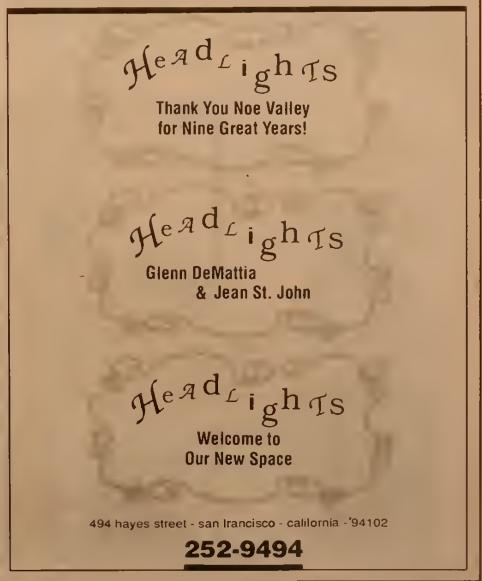
For more information on the Neighborhood Earthquake Preparedness Coalition, which meets every third Monday at 6 p.m. at 1550 Sutter St., call Michael Dee Gunn at 564-0425 or Philip Klasky at 896-1981.

Call the Mayor's Office of Emergency Services for earthquake preparedness broclures at 441-6020, or OES Communications Coordinator Eileen Cahill Mahoney at 554-6553.

Assistant Chief Dennis Callahan of the San Francisco Fire Department's Earthquake Task Force is at 861-8000, ext. 431. The Red Cross also has earthquake planning resources: eall Martha Smythe at 776-1500.

Safety Awareness For Everyone (SAFE) can be reached at 673-SAFE. Bill Knlms of the Friends of Noe Valley, who will loan out his video on earthquake planning, can be reached at 826-2304. To get involved in the Upper Noe Neighbors' earthquake planning efforts, contact Janice Gendreau at 641-5989 or Sue Bowie at 824-1062.





#### Rob Morse: Man With a Column To Grind

Continued from Page 1

Culturalty, he means. He and his wife Debby, a graphic artist and children's book illustrator, live in the neighborhood that's labeled Glen Park, but "it's not really Glen Park," notes Morse, "it's the Fairmount. Your paper wrote about it. I'd never hear I I it before it was in the

He loves Noe Valtey, and often mentions it in his Examiner column, published five times a week, including Sundays. "We're Real Food kind of people," he says, noting that he also shops at "that great little Church, Street vegetable market [Church Produce]," where one can find "the best prices for vegetables anywhere in the city. The guy who runs it is Greek, and they play classical music, and it's a real nice clientele."

Morse likes shopping, "[It's] a great thing to do on a Saturday. I go around on my bike, which is a real Noc Valley way to do it, and buy a few things here and there until I have a knapsack full of stuff,'

He favors the single wine rack at Reaf Food because, he says, it holds only 18 or 20 choices of French and American organic wines, and that makes it "easier to make a selection." And he finds great temptations "at that little store, I don't even know its name [The Chef], where you can get wonderful pâtés, good satmon, and caviar if you really want to spend a lot of money. It does everything that Macy's Cellar does. And it's so unintimidating that I always spend fifty or a hundred bucks when I go in intending to get a little piece of pâté,'

Another pleasure to be found in the neighborhood, he adds, is the Voice, "one of my favorite newspapers."

Downtown at the Examiner, a threedot journalism war with Herb Caen was predicted when Morse came to the paper from the Orlando Sentinel in 1985. However, "it was a promotional device," he asserts. "Herb Caen and I do totally different things, and I knew we did when I started. The editor who hired me wanted me to go head to head with Caen, but we play completely different games." Still, the playing field looks very similar: feft side, top of the page, full column, next to the Macy's ad. Is it Avis (Morse) versus Hertz (Caen)? "I don't mind being Avis," he laughs. "I wouldn't even mind being Budget or Alamo.

"One of my real problems with being brought in as competition is that it takes the pleasure out of reading Caen, because I'm reading to find out what he has, or what he's going to do, and thinking, how does this guy do this? I get jealous of him. But when I was a regular citizen or worked for another paper, I could read and enjoy him."

At 45, this unabashed admirer of Caen (whose 75th birthday was celebrated in parties, print, and restaurants this winter) maintains, "If Herb Caen quits writing his cotumn, it'll be a watershed on the order of the '06 earthquake. People will get up in the morning and say, 'What do we do now?' There'll be this hole in their lives, like the death of a spouse."

One time Morse and some friends sat around and tried to figure out who had been more influential than Caen, within a given geographical region, during the past century. "The only name we could come up with was Queen Victoria. I said Herb was probably writing cotumns back then, saying, 'Great architecture, Vicky, but can the sexual morality."

Admiration aside, there have been columnar skirmishes. "I scooped him on one of his assistants leaving," Morse re-calls. "I'd found out about it while he was on vacation, and he came back to read in the paper that the assistant had quit. Actually, I'm not in the scoop business, but every once in a while, if I can get a good item and I run it, I know it will make him mad. Hove it. Word gets back to me that

he was mad about something."

Word got back when Morse ran his item on Caen and a collection of famous San Franciscans partying in Paris over New Year's several seasons ago. The maître d' of the restaurant where the group had gathered told "an impeccable source," who told Morse, "Zay say zay are from San Francisco, but are zay really? Pair-haps zay are from ze subairbs." Morse ran the story while Caen was writing rosily about his Paris sojourn, and a deep freeze ensued.

"He's such a master of manners that he can ignore you from a foot away and it's like you don't exist," Morse avers. "He can not only he good-mannered, he can be ill-mannered in a good-mannered way."

For Morse, a typical work day starts "very randomly," around 8 a.m. at his Examiner office. He sits near the city desk because he likes to know what's going on, he says, and if something important is breaking, he likes to get involved. "There's usually a column you can get out of a big event that isn't duplicated elsewhere in the paper."

He does a lot of lunching, observing that "lunch is the main San Francisco meal for certain groups of people in politics, government, business, and journatism. I go to Stars or Washington Square Bar and Grill, and t atways find something out. There's sort of a more conservative crowd at Washington Square Bar and Grill, but where I grew up, these people are liherals.'

He finds liberal and conservative "a useless distinction in this town, because people who are conservative generally believe all the good things the liberats do; they just have a grudge against somebody who's more liberal. The politics tend to be very personal.

'Then there's another level of symbolic politics way above, where, for example, it's very important to gays to have domestie partners and, to some of them, to have sanctuary laws. And there's a perception that gays dominate the political structure of the city. You hear this from people—I heard it from a nice Fitipino car dealer

we bought an auto from. So at a high level, there are these very real political schisms, but down at the level of politics politics, it's who hates Art and who does Art hate. A fot of gossip and innuendo."

Morse has learned not to put much store by the gossip he hears coming over the transom. "The more often the gossip comes around, the fess trustworthy it is. Some kinds of gossip fulfill a certain need in people for public figures to have feet of clay." He recalls that during a major election, there was "a big piece of gossip" about a political figure who had something seriously wrong in his private life. Reporters discovered some documentation, but the evidence was questionable and not enough for a news story. Nothing appeared in print.

"I know why I didn't run it," Morse says. "I tafked to the person involved, and the people in his family would have been irrevocably damaged. Young people, innocent people who weren't in politics. And it wasn't worth it. I'm afraid that's the kind of columnist I am. In the husiness Herb Caen and I are in, we're in the gray area.'

Eschewing gossip and crusades ("I haven't done much of that lately"), Morse remarks that these days he writes to reflect things that are happening in different parts of the city. He sees the column as "interactive. You don't just pronounce something and then come back and pronounce it again. In between, you talk to people and get some feeling for who they are. The column may change, and your opinion may move on some issues.'

The groups of young people who trashed property and broke windows in the January peace demonstrations roused his anger, and he wrote about it. "A lot of the kids called me up after the column ran and turned out to be quite reasonable on the phone. I realized it's a different time. They didn't grow up with John Kennedy as their president, and with great hope out there. They've grown up, if they were liberals or radicats, with very little hope. They've grown up with AIDS. To me, AIDS is still a new phenomenon. To

kids in their early 20s, AIDS has been around since they were sexually aware. Not that I countenance violence, but I think I understand why these kids were so angry.'

Born in Boston, Morse did his growing up around Brown University, where his father, Robert W. Morse, taught physics and, in 1964, was appointed secretary of the Navy. After graduation from Harvard with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in education, he taught language classes for aphasic and autistic children in Boston.

He had applied for newspaper jobs at the Boston Globe, The New York Times, and two other papers that he admired, but his lack of any journalistic experience proved a stumbling block

"Journalism was what I always wanted to do, but I never had the guts" (to join the staff of his college newspaper), Morse says. "It was too intimidating. Working on the Crimson was fike a profession—you didn't do anything else. The people there were all going to win Pulitzers.

It was while attending a conference at Stanford University on language development that he drove into San Francisco one night, watched the sun rise and the buildings change color on Nob Hill, and decided that this was the place to live. As a means to his West Coast end, he maneuvered a fellowship to study West African languages at Stanford. Two years fater he decided that the academic life was not for him, and that it was time for a career

After applying unsuccessfully to the San Jose Mercury News (three years' experience needed for reporters), he got a job in the ad department of the Times Tribune in Pato Atto, delivering proofs and tear sheets to advertisers in Redwood City and Sunnyvale. The break came when editor David Burgin transferred him to the editorial side and made him the paper's restaurant reviewer.

Calvin Tritlin became Morse's model for food writing, as well as the reason for routing his honeymoon through Kansas City. "Trillin wrote about Arthur Bryant's Barbecue, so when Debby and I got married, we drove across the country just so we could go there." They plotted their trip by the restaurants they wanted to visit, gaining about 20 pounds each, Morse admits, but having a very good time doing it.

"When I did restaurant reviewing, we were very much a team," says Morse. "Debby's very skinny and picky, and I'm not so skinny and not so picky. I didn't want to do restaurant writing for a living, but it was a nice way to start."

From that beginning, Morse went on to Florida, hired by Burgin to write for the Orlando Sentinel. Two years fater, Burgin offered him the Examiner colunin, and Morse happity returned to the

What kind of writing would he most like to do "for a living?" Exactly what he does. "Actually, I've built up a great back flap for a novel," he adds. "[I've been a] sweeper in a cotton mill, gold miner in Central America apprentice seaman cabbie, chef, Marine. I've done all that, but I never wrote the novel.

"I like writing for a newspaper better. The disadvantage is that everything has to be 900 words long. But in a way that's a challenge, It's fike a 900-word haiku: put anything you want to expand upon in 900 words.

"It's a funny little discipline."



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#### Another Armed Robbery at Video Store

By Steve Steinberg

A gun-toting robber, who may have participated in as many as 15 San Francisco robberies, added to his string by holding up a Noe Valley video store at the end of February.

Alexander Gardener, the owner of Video Wave, 1431A Castro St., said the robbery occurred during the late afternoon of Feb. 27. Gardener said he was alone when a slender man, about 45–50 years old, with a pock-marked face, entered his store.

Gardener had turned away from the man and toward the store counter, but he sensed that "something was wrong." When he turned back, the man had a revolver pointed at him. Gardener said the man then told him to open the cash register and give him the money "or I'll shoot you."

Gardener said he felt at the time that the robber really would have shot him, had he not complied. "He put out violence, that he would hurt someone if they didn't do what he wanted."

Gardener contrasted this robber with another thief who had held up his store several months earlier. In that incident, Gardener said he hadn't felt nearly as threatened, although the robber also had a gun. According to Gardener, that handit had actually apologized for the robhery, saying, "I really need the money."

In the Fehruary holdup, Gardener did exactly as the robber demanded, reaching into the cash register and giving him the money, which amounted to only \$100. Gardener said he had learned not to keep much money in the register.

After taking the cash, the thief left, admonishing Gardener, "Don't follow me." But Gardener went after him anyway, hoping to get a vehicle description and license plate number if the man had a getaway car. He saw the rohber get into a red Mitsubishi pickup truck and drive away. However, the truck was too far away for Gardener to record the license

Gardener said that later that day police asked him to identify a possible suspect, but the individual proved not to he the boldun man

Police believe that the suspect in the Video Wave robbery is one of two robbers, working as a team, who have held up 15 businesses over the past several months. According to Inspector Michael Maloney of the San Francisco Police Department's robbery detail, the men have stuck up a variety of businesses, ranging from video and liquor stores to clothing and drug stores. Maloney said he believed the robbers to be "drug addicts," since they had stolen the kind of prescription drugs favored by addicts. On at least

one occasion, the men had also been seen driving off in a white Volkswagen.

Although police have thus far been unable to identify the culprits, they do have a video recording of one of them, made by a store video system during the course of one of the robberies. Maloney said the recording unfortunately reveals only a vague, fuzzy picture.

Police are continuing to investigate, however, and Maloncy says he plans to bring victims to the Hall of Justice to view the video and look at mug shots.

In the meantime, Gardener has installed a video system in his store to guard against future rohberies. He also revealed that several Noe Valley merchants had discussed the possibility of hiring a private security force to provide protection against holdups. He said that merchants often feel that they "can't rely on police to be there."

But Gardener stressed that the talks are only in the tentative stages.

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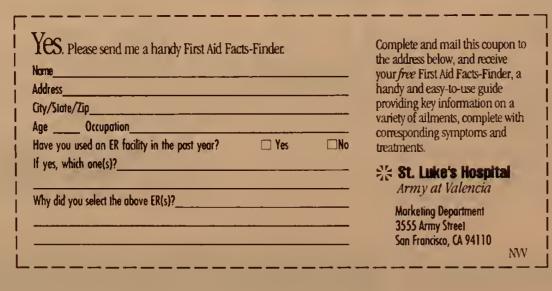
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#### Valley 'Regular' Cort Tomlin Dies at 62

By Jeff Kaliss

There was a familiar face missing from 24th Street in the closing weeks of 1990.

In the same spirit in which he lived, Cort Tomlin passed quietly from the planet on Dec. 12, so quietly that it wasn't until the new year that some of us realized why we hadn't seen him hanging out around Noe's, Spinelli's, or Tien Fu.

Cort always found a way to remind people of his age—62 at the time of his death—because he neither looked nor acted it. Maybe that was because of the music in his soul. Long-haired and bearded like a weathered cowboy, his slender frame enclosed in his favorite light-colored leather jacket, he was a regular at the 1980s' jazz jams at Salonicas and Zorba's, laying down bebop rhythms on the drums behind the hest of them.

"He was a nice human being," remembers carpenter Ricky Pagan, his Sanchez Street friend and neighbor for the last few years. "He didn't have a lot going for him." Cort survived primarily on his Social Security payments, says Pagan, "hut he took care of me and lots of other people, and he was always willing to help out."

A couple dozen of Cort's grateful friends gathered at Noe's just after New Year's, and raised some glasses and funds to get Cort cremated and create a music conservatory scholarship fund in his memory.

Surprisingly, Pagan reveals that Cort himself "had one drink a year, and that was on his birthday." Admirable restraint for someone who was a mainstay of Noe Valley tavern talk.

Cort lived alone most of his life, and left no known survivors. But his friends took his ashes to the north tower of the Golden Gate Bridge, and scattered them to the water helow. His social essence remained behind, on 24th Street.

"We're all gonna miss him," says Pagan, who testifies that during smoky nights at Noe's, "Cort's name comes up quite a bit."



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#### New Albion— **Record Label That Fosters** The Unusual

By Jeff Kaliss

"You can't reveal the location of what we're currently doing," whispers Foster Reed. "There are lines already, and we don't need to lead more people here."

Well, Foster, I'm going to spill the beans and rice: we're munching on some marvelous burritos at La Taqueria, on Mission near 25th Street, We're also carrying on an interview, about a subject which Reed wishes were less of a secret: his recording company, New Albion Records.

Hidden away behind a sculpture studio on Guerrero Street, New Albion in the past seven years has created a catalog that is renowned for its commitment to new and unusual music. The first album the company produced was an amalgamation of ethnic, classical, and electronic instruments—with the sound of fog horns. The latest is a revival of equally eerie and beautiful music from the 14th century.

"There's something about me that really responds to the impossible," declares the 40-year-old Reed, whose boyish bespectacled looks still evoke his East Coast hoarding school upbringing as the son of a wealthy manufacturer. His search for challenges bounced him in and out of college and through a folk-rock band, with which he played guitar.

"Some of our music would sound like Jim Morrison, some like Jefferson Airplane, and there was a strong John Lennon influence," recalls Reed about his

"We even made a direct-to-disk demo for RCA when they were looking for the Monkees. And we weren't the Monkees-

After the failure of their Vanguard Records album in 1968, the Free Band "was so devastated that we all quit music." Reed turned toward literature and poetry, finding parallels between James Joyce's Finnegan's Wake and the new, free-ranging jazz of Cecil Taylor and Ornette Coleman. "The relationship was very obvious," declares Reed. "Any given moment is a mosaic of many."

For the next few years, Reed prolonged the completion of his academic degree, taking time out to teach English in Bogotá, Colombia. But in 1972, he decided to join his two older brothers in San Francisco, one of whom, Larry, was on his way to becoming an expert in Balincse puppetry and gamelan music.

The youngest Reed started making extra money as "more or less an itinerant musician, playing weddings and parties." He then learned the classical violin repertoire on mandofin.

"I had problems socially identifying myself as a classical mandolinist. It didn't really cut it at family reunions," continues Reed, whose family nevertheless supported his musical habit.

"The down side of a trust fund is, no



Foster Reed enjoys a rare quiet moment inside the Guerrero Street headquarters of New Albion, the record label he founded in 1984. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

matter what you do, it doesn't matter, 'cause the money's there," he points out. "The other side is, it makes you do things that are otherwise kind of crazy, which is what I did, to some extent.'

But the birth in 1981 of his first son, Andy, prompted Reed to "look for something serious to do with my life." Brother Larry had begun introducing him into the circle of Bay Area proponents of what was called, for want of a better term, "New Music." These experimenters included John Adams, Ingram Marshall, and Paul Dresher.

Reed recognized the excitement in this music that he'd previously found in jazz. But he was disappointed to find that most of the companies willing to deal with these kinds of composers (such as CRI and New World Records) were unwilling to provide the necessary technical and promotional support.

So Reed decided to launch himself into business with a recording of Adams for the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, made just prior to that composer's leap to fame. Adams went on to the composition of operas, such as Nixon in China and the just-premiered The Death of Klinghoffer, and inevitably moved to bigger labels.

After his initial venture, Reed set up New Albion in the front room of Ingram Marshall's home on Cole Street. Reed himself played mandolin on the new label's first album, which featured Marshall's "Fog Tropes" and "Gradual Requiem."

New Albion slowly increased its pace of production, retaining in its catalog only the better-selling releases. As he received more and more demo tapes from interested artists, Reed either bought rights to the music or set about producing his own recording sessions, using hightech studios such as Mobius on Sanchez Street, Bay Records in Berkeley, or George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch in Marin.

Positive reactions began to appear in opinion-forming magazines such as High Fidelity and Downbeat. By 1988, the company had landed two of its albums on the New York Times' list of best recordings: Litania, by Japanese composer Somei Satoh, and Lou Harrison's La Koro Sutro, featuring an American gamelan orchestra (hased on the Balinese model) and the U.C. Berkeley Chorus.

'Companies like ours tend to get received better by the critics than companies that are putting out yet another 'Moonlight Sonata,'" Reed points out. "Critics have so much bad stuff thrown at them that if something is done for love, if it's done honestly, then it stands out above the glut of the commercial product."

Reed's abiding love of challenge and his honest commitment to nurturing musical underdogs continued to characterize New Albion, which moved from Cole Street to the Reed Brothers' collective house at 18th and Hattie, to Reed's current family home at Church and Hill Streets, and finally to Guerrero Street. The catalog grew heyond its beginnings in New Music to include avant-garde jazz, ancient music, and such dramatic experiments as a series of improvisations for accordion, trombone, the didjeridu (a resonant wand), and voice, recorded in a 186-foot cistern.

"My center of gravity is New Music," states Reed, "but I realized that it's every company's job to make as good records as they can. So I've decided to let go periodically...to try not to be ideological."

Making good records, getting them out there, and keeping solvent required taking on new staff. Currently, Todd Reamon helps design the breathtaking covers for New Albion's compact disks (they've discontinued LPs and cassettes, which are difficult to manufacture and don't trade well in the world market). Mike Wilpiceski handles sales and promotion, depending increasingly on direct mail. Martha Chesley draws up contracts and writes checks, while Phyllis Oyama takes care of accounts payable. Tricia Skennion is described by her boss as "my utility in-fielder."

The money is flowing, but not as fast as Reed would like.

"When we started was when Windham Hill and ECM were really hot companies," he says about two of his longterm competitors. "That was hecause there was a vacuum that these companies could fill. Then the CD revolution came along, the industry got a new lease on life, and the majors [e.g., Elektra/ Nonesuch and Warner Brothers/Reprise] threw 60 releases a month into the pipeline.

'Now there's so much had music out there that the consumers are again becoming alienated. They either stop huying or find stuff that matters. So it provides an opportunity for people like me."

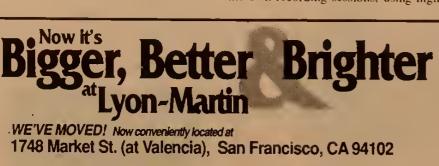
But, with the exception of a few college and public radio stations, "this whole repertoire is not on the air," complains Reed. And this commercial shutout is reflected in the relative unavailability of New Albion over the counter, even in its home territory.

"On 24th Street, the record stores are oriented to the youth culture, so only the youth culture comes into them," claims Reed. He says he'd like to see them carry a broader selection, matching the scope of Cover to Cover bookstore, which "sells a little bit of everything, so everyhody's in there looking for things.

New Albion actually sells better in Tokyo, Paris, and London than it does locally. Reed returned recently from an international marketing conference in France, where "everyone in the world was talking to me. That's great," he adds. "hut on the other hand, we're in the middle of this recession," which keeps production costs high and record sales low.

Nevertheless, Reed is continuing to broaden the scope of his own operations with La Doctrina de Los Ciclos, an album recorded in Bolivia with native instruments. "I reached this point at New Albion where I was feeling Eurocentric," admits Reed. "There has to be more of a world out there, and it can't just be African pop music,"

The eccentric little lahel has begun to prove that it can support its staff, as well as help sustain Reed, his wife Andrea, and their three boys. "If I knew what I know now, I wouldn't have done it," claims its founder. But there's a world full of creative composers, musicians, and listeners who are glad he did.



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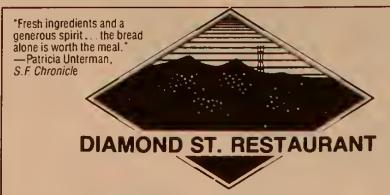
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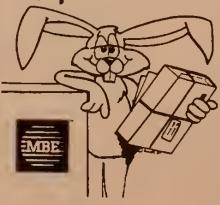
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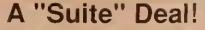
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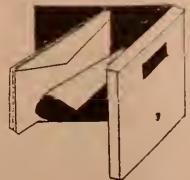
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Opucian Dave Vasquez, whose former office was next to St. Luke's Hospital, now keeps folks looking well on Castro.

By Karol Barske

This month's Storetrek has a little something for everyone, and will hopefully keep you abreast of the latest commercial ventures in eyewear, children's clothes, computers, and cafes.

#### Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St. 826-1199

An eclectic mix of music fills the air and two six-foot-tall Mexican papiermâché musicians hover over the brightly painted tables at Radio Valencia, Don and Lanée Alan's new restaurant at the corner of Valencia and 23rd streets (the former location of Artemis Cafe).

The couple opened Radio Valencia (also known affectionately as "Lanée's soup kitchen") a couple of months ago, and they serve up a daily selection of hot and cold sandwiches and salads, plus desserts, Spinelli coffee, wine, and beer.

Don, who has previous experience in the radio industry, says he mixed the cafe's background tapes to create some tasty "undercurrents," composed of new releases, African pop. roots rock 'n' roll, and other urban music. A play list of the songs sits on each table, and Radio Valencia's "Top 40 CD's" are displayed for sale on the restaurant's back wall.

Radio Valencia is open 11 a.m. to midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., Friday and Saturday. And on Fridays throughout April, the cafe will feature a "beer and wine two-for-one" happy hour from 11 p.m. until midnight.

#### Vasquez Optical and Hearing 1309 Castro St. 206-2080

After 15 years in the Monteagle Building next to St. Luke's Hospital, Vasquez Optical relocated in early March to its



Aside from tasty treats served up by Candice, the cafe Radio Valencia provides colorful wall art and an aural environment that simulates an intelligently programmed radio station.

new storefront on Castro, between Jersey

Optician David Vasquez says his services include filling eye- and sunglass prescriptions, fittings, and on-the-spot eyeglass repairs. Single-vision lens prescriptions can usually he filled overnight, and that quick turnaround could be even quicker after Vasquez adds his own minilab for cutting lenses, on May 1.

Vasquez Optical also sells and repairs hearing aids, and offers hearing exams and testing on the premises.

Vasquez's mother, Dolores, serves as receptionist and "all-around helperouter" in this family-owned business. She says she enjoys being in the midst of a friendly neighborhood, and predicts that the next eyewear trend in Noe Valley will be Avant-Garde's four styles of John Lennon frames, authorized by Yoko Ono.

Vasquez Optical has another location, on Mission Street between 20th and 21st. The Noe Valley office is open Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Noe Valley Computers 100 Clipper St. 282-3000

"Basically, we do everything," says Howard Petrick, owner of Noe Valley Computers, which opened April 1 at the former location of Cooper Insurance, on the corner of Clipper and Church.

Petrick and store manager Nell Lancaster (who used to run Pueblo to People) build, sell, and service their own 1BM clones. They offer hardware installations, software consultations, a one-year warranty, and "unlimited advice," says Petrick, especially for the computer-

The store stocks software for IBM and Macintosh, including Word Perfect, Aldus Pagemaker, and utility programs.

Noe Valley Computers is known internationally: they have set up systems in Central America and Nicaragua, computerized the major newspaper in Homer, Alaska, and are developing stores in the Soviet Union (in Minsk and Yerkutsk, Siberia). Many consultants and small businesses use their services, and they have done extensive work for non-profits.

'We are a socially conscious computer store," says Petrick. "We only sell good, tested products that we like, and we stand behind all our work."

Noe Valley Computers' hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment. Call 282-3000.

#### **Small Frys** 4066 24th St. 648-3954

Small Frys re-opened March 23 with a new owner, Carol Yenne, a 16-year resident of Alvarado Street. After working for Levi Strauss' consumer affairs department for 19 years. Yenne is enthusiastic about running her own shop. "I really am committed to neighborhood stores," she says.

Yenne plans to offer a wide selection of new merchandise, and to get her two daughters, Azia, 14, and 8-year-old Lisa, involved in the business. Shoppers will also notice two new additions to the store: a dressing room and a changing room.

The selection of reasonably priced, allnew clothing-sizes newborn to 14 for



Rina Rall helps dispense the exotica at Xela's Gallery Store, which recently opened in the 24th Street slot last occupied by Video Uno. PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

girls, and up to size 7 for hoys-emphasizes 100 percent cotton items from local and northern California companies. Some of the popular lines carried are Sweet Potatoes, Sara's Prints, Yazoo, Monster Wear, Golden Rainbow, and Bright Baby. Accessories, such as Panama straw hats, and a selection of preschool toys are also

Small Frys, located hetween Noe and Castro on 24th, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

#### Xela's Gallery Store 3925 24th St. 695-1323

Feral and fantastic masks, both animal and human, peer down from the high white walls of Xela's Gallery Store—a new, second Xela shop (the original Xela is just a few doors up the street, at 39611/2 24th St.)—at the former location of Video Uno, between Noe and Sanchez.

Owner Seth, who prefers to go by his first name only, has advantageously used the additional floor space to display a variety of artifacts brought back from his bi-annual buying trips to Thailand, Bali, Guatemala, and Peru.

The expanded, exotic inventory now includes an entire case of beads, jewelry, and "findings," plus cards, incense, carved wooden animals painted in bright colors, scarves, fabric, and clothing. Seth's original-design cotton garments are tailored in Bali, and only two or three of each design are done in the same fabric. The shop also offers ear piercings.

The original Xela opened its doors in 1984, two years after Seth began importing items collected during a motorcycle trip from Mexico and Guatemala.

Both stores are now open daily, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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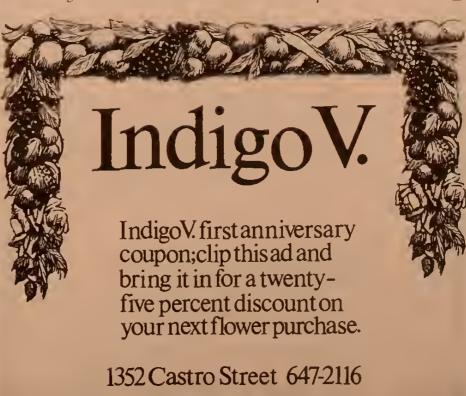
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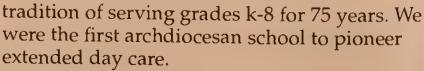
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#### Why We Need To Fight to Save Buena Vista, And All the **Public Schools**

By Leigh Escobedo

On March 15, my sons, Jesse, 7, and Miles, 2, and I were part of a demonstration at the Civic Center in San Francisco. Parents, children, teachers, and others were singing and chanting and begging for people to wake up and look at our public schools. Look at our future.

This demonstration was to let our legislators know that the public wants them to uphold Proposition 98, which we, the people, voted for in 1988. Proposition 98 states that we want education to he a priority in California, that we want hetter education for our children, that we want good teachers to be retained, not laid off. Without Prop. 98, school funding for grades K-12 will be reduced by the equivalent of \$9,000 per classroom or \$700 to \$800 per pupil below the national average—and this would be a

Now Governor Wilson wants to suspend Prop. 98 (which he can do if he gets two-thirds of the legislature to back him) and use our educational budget to fund other state programs instead-for example, our growing prison system. Ironic, isn't it? "Hey, let's keep cutting education. so we can keep those prison programs. growing." Ugh

Here in Noc Valley, at Buena Vista Alternative School, we are very busy fighting to save our teachers and our unique, one-of-a-kind program. Five of our 15 teachers, plus four part-time staff members, received layoff notices. They received the notices because they do not have seniority within the system; unfortunately, the teachers who will be assigned to replace them, even though they might have seniority, have not been trained to teach in a program such as ours, which is a national model for what's termed "Spanish-immersion."

Our teachers have invented the wheel. They have developed and adapted a wonderful curriculum for Spanish immersion, which means that they meet all the San Francisco school district curriculum requirements-teaching our children to read, write, and speak not only in English, hut also in Spanish! Plus, they give them many enrichment opportunities. In fact, if classroom sizes could be reduced by live to eight children per class (a change that all our public schools desperately need), Buena Vista would be a model school, period.

I am a very involved parent/fundraiser, and I spend a lot of my volunteer hours in the school. My admiration for these teachers is heyond words, but let me try. First, teachers are not paid well. I am a registered nurse. My joh is hard, but not as hard as theirs. Yet I make twice as much as most teachers.

The joh of a teacher, especially in overcrowded urhan schools, is overwhelming. Picture it: one teacher with 30 children. Desirable class size, in an elementary school, is under 25, with an aide. According to the California P.T.A., Calilornia schools have the largest average class size in the nation, nearly 50 percent higher than the national average—and most classes are double the optimum size. This is before the proposed hudget

Buena Vista has a few part-time aides (not full-time, and not for every teacher, every day) and some dedicated parent volunteers. Believe me, this is not enough. We currently have a physical education teacher and a student counselor, hut these johs will be eliminated with the cuts. We'll also lose our music program. We don't have a school nurse to lose.

Who picks up the slack? Who carries the constantly increasing load of statemandated programs, such as special education and minority programs? The principal, the teachers, and one overworked secretary. Do they get any office staff to help them? No way. We could call it teacher ahuse, or child ahuse, or hoth.

Besides all of the above, Buena Vista is in a crumbling building that is too

In spite of all this, our children get incredible teaching, love, and respect. My son is in second grade. I was in class last week, and listened and watched closely, while I "har-coded" National Geographic articles for classroom use. (All the magazines, by the way, were donated hy parents, or by the teacher.) Philip Pasmanick ("Felipé") is one of the school district's "mentor teachers," an exceptional teacher who teaches other teachers. (The mentor program will be cut, too.) And he teaches every one of those 29 children a lot in one day. He has developed wonderful ways to use music to teach math, reading, all subjects. He plays a great piano, and conga, and just makes a person feel great. Those 7- and

8-year-old children are happy and doing great work, even though they have only the bare-hones essentials to work with. This is hecause they love and respect their teacher, and he loves and respects them. That's how Buena Vista teachers are, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 or 6 p.m. (working overtime is just part of the job). They are doing what they love, and trying to give our children what they need.

Buena Vista is only one of many wonderful public schools in this eity. But please understand, all of these schools have a high proportion of new, fresh, energetic, progressive teachers—the ones who will be laid off if the cuts go through. Horace Mann, said by many to be the middle school of the '90s, could lose 70 to 80 percent of its staff. Other schools face losses of 20 to 40 percent.

I am still in denial and can't believe this may actually happen. Who will replace our wonderful teachers? Teachers with seniority, from other schools and other programs (none like Buena Vista's) and administrators who may not have been in a classroom for five, maybe 10 years? Will the administrators even want to be in the classroom? Will they teach and love our children like teachers who have chosen to be at Buena Vista?

Who will want to teach, or stay in teaching, when they are treated so dismally? We need a halanced mix of fresh, new teachers working alongside our older, more experienced teachers. But with the proposed cuts, teacher is being pitted against teacher. And what does the term "new" teacher mean, anyway? In San Francisco, many of our supposed "new" teachers have worked for years, as "longterm substitutes." What this means is that they work within the same grueling conditions as tenured teachers, but are paid less, receive fewer henefits, and have little or no job security. Another way for the district to save money.

California ranks 30th in the nation in money spent per child. Last week I heard that we are rated in the bottom 10 states, academically. I could cry! And my child will be a part of this horrendous experi-

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ment. Schools statewide are growing by 200,000 students per year, and they say that 7,000 new teachers will be needed for 1991, just to keep up with the growth. So how can they fire this many teachers? How many children will he herded into one classroom? Forty? Filty?

As a result of all this, my hushand and I may be forced to make hig changes in our lives. We love Buena Vista. We love San Francisco. But it's not loving us hack. Maybe we'll have to leave the city. But what about those parents who can't leave, who don't have that option?

Public education is the only solution to the vast social problems our society is experiencing. Our politicians need to hear from us in one loud voice: Let our teachers teach. Let our children learn.

What each individual must do is: support your local public school. See, hear, and feel it. Volunteer if you can. Give money if you can. (Even now, hefore the budget cuts, the Buena Vista P.T.A. buys paper, yes paper, for the school.) And learn what can be done to generate more money for the schools; the Calfornia P.T.A., or the teachers' union can inform you about options. Then let your legislators know what you want.

Families who can afford it will give up-many already have- and either go private, leave the city, or leave the state. But those of us who stay must keep fighting to save our schools, save our teachers, and save our future.

#### Now's Your Chance

Let Bylines Be Bylines is your column. Send us your thoughts, and we'll consider printing them. Your submission must be typed, double-spaced, fewer than 1,000 words, pertinent to Noe Valley, and told in the first person. We may edit for style, clarity, hrevity or legality. Include your name, address, and phone. Send it to: The Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sunchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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# THE EON VALLEY VOICE

#### Animal Co. **Now Animal** Owned and **Operated**

By Sally Sniff

The Animal Company now really is one. Following the national trend toward animal rights, the pet supply store, located at 24th and Douglass, was handed over last month to a couple of dogs, Boychik Yagudin and litter-mate Saleetchka, of 101 Comerford Alley, Apt. K-9.

Asked how they planned to do their business, Boychik snapped, "Well, first of all, we'll have a sale on those exotic birds. They'll be going for 10 bucks each, and they make real good squeak toys."

Saleetchka admitted, however, that "there wasn't much meat on 'em.'

The new owners also promised to sell off the shop's inventory of Science Diet

#### Panhandler Aces Top Job

By Carol Cheap-Skate

The Noe Valley Merchants and Parsimonials Association finally recognized 24th Street's most successful entrepreneur April 1 by electing "Gary the Panhandler" president of the 400-member organization.

In his acceptance speech following the election, held at the Noe Valley Soup Kitchen, Gary reminisced about his rise to power in the neighborhood. "I always gave back as much as I took," he avowed. "I'd like kids to look at me and say, 'Hey, that could be me when I grow up. And, by the way, can you spare some change?"

Gary's success story began in 1989. A quarter at a time he built his empirefirst making change on a freelance basis for Muni riders and 24th Street merchants, then opening a 24-hour checkcashing booth near the Wells Fargo automatic teller machine.

Soon the popularity of his business compelled him to franchise, and today three kiosks bear his trademark—at 24th and Church, 18th and Castro, and the corner of Market and Duboce. Each is manned by a man or woman attired in Gary's familiar uniform: long brown beard, rumpled dark raincoat, and something in their hand.

Gary says that this summer he is planning to open a boutique, Bum Wraps, in the Noe Valley Mall, where "panhandlers throughout the Bay Area can shop for all the necessities of looking down-and-out, at reasonable prices.'

He'll also start holding seminars, with such titles as "Dress for Pathos," "Liberal Guilt and How to Play It for All It's Worth," and "Closing the Deal: So Cough It Up, Already." The classes will he based on his popular column in the Noe Valley

Continued on Page 58

#### No Freedom of Press

The April Fool's section of this month's Voice was censored by Karol Barske, Charles Kennard, Sally Smith, Jack Tipple, and Jane Underwood.



Soviet-American boxer Boychik Yagudin and his domesticated partner, Saleetchka (not shown), recently took over the reins at the Animal Company on 24th Street. The couple promises a clearance sale on birds and an end to Science Diet rations. PHOTO BY CHOW-CHOW KENNARD

and other pet "health" foods. "We're now going to stock hot and spicy Kentucky Fried Chicken," Boychik slobbered

When commanded to sit and give his opinion of the nearby city park, Noe

Courts, Boychik had a little accident, then gave the scoop: "I'm glad you reminded me. Local canines should come to our protest march on April I. We're calling it "Take Back the Courts."



A Nerd in the Sand Is Worth Two in the Bush: The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation revealed last month that—like Nancy Reagan before him—President George Bush has a close consultant in Noe Valley, This time it's not an astrologer, but "sand-tray" therapist Robert Blythe. Blythe decided to share this aerial photo of Bush's sandbox after he became disgruntled with his patient's lack of progress. "I felt he was carrying this wimp business a little too far, and that innocent people were getting hurt," Blythe said. PHOTO BY CHARLES PETER ARNETT

# High-Rise Condom Project to Go Up on Grand View

By C. Doda Smith

A Noe Valley developer unrolled plans last month for a \$1 billion condom project to be erected in the 6900 block of Grand View, at the western tip of the neighborhood.

Dick Thrifty Sr., head of the giant drug and novelty chain that bears his name, said his firm had decided to launch the 12-story, multi-textured development as an affordable-housing tool.

"What with housing prices ballooning out of sight, low-income residents are being pushed out of Noe Valley," Thrifty said. "Over the years, we've become ultra-sensitive to this issue, so these family-size condoms will be aimed at the little guy, who may not be so financially well endowed."

Though things may be looking up for first-time buyers in Noe Valley, Grand View residents are not exactly tickled

"This development is really going to stick out in our neighborhood. It's much too big, and it will block our views," said Margaret Tutweiler, who lives next door to the forested lot where the condom project would be built.

John Squelch, chair of the planning committee for the residential group Frowns of Noe Valley, agreed.

"After extensive intercourse with our members, I've decided to withdraw support from the development. I've also looked over the architectural drawings, and even a layman like me can tell that the structure isn't securely attached to its base," Squelch said.

The project was also taking some ribbing from local environmental expert Walt Greens. "It could slide right off that hill and destroy the peace pole on Castro Street!" he ejaculated.

But Greens pointed out that Thrifty's announcement might be a bit premature. "Projects of this kind have a 12 percent failure rate, and chances are they may never get it up."

After additional prodding from the Voice staff, Thrifty Sr. exposed his huge

Continued on Page 99

#### Police Go on Pogo Patrol

Noe Valley beat cops have traded in their bicycles for a new form of transport: pogo sticks.

"The bikes were okay," said 24th Street beat officer Lois Exasperillo, "but with the pogos we've got even more mobility. We can clear fences, doubleparked cars, and even the gate at the Noe Valley Mall.

"When we're in 'hop pursuit,' as we've taken to calling it, we don't have to worry about parking and locking our bikes after apprehending a suspect. We just dismount and stow the stick in our holster."

Theft of officers' bikes reached a crisis point in December, and police brass started investigating options, the first of which was the skateboard. After a brief trial period during which several officers were injured on steep valley streets, the boards were shelved. "They also gave us a rebel image that wasn't appropriate," said Exasperillo. "We had to wear these tee shirts with skulls on them, and elhow pads with studs. The kids thought we were cool, but the seniors would hide when they

By Jack Sprat

heard us coming. And they could hear us hlocks away."

Though most residents have responded favorably to the pogo sticks, some say they lack the level of dignity the public expects of its police force.

"I'm just afraid that many folks will think Bozo when they see a cop on a pogo," said Noe Valley Panhandlers Association President Phillup Pot. "But on the plus side, the officers are bouncing up and down so much, they do seem to drop a fair amount of change."

#### Noe Residents To Soak State

By Jake Drizzle

Gov. Deplete Wilson declared California's six-year drought at an end April 1, after confirming news that the vast surplus of water in Noe Valley would be shared with the rest of the state.

"The figures for water conservation and collection in Noe Valley are the answer to our prayers," he drooled.

The neighborhood's citizens had salvaged a whopping 513 million acre feet of H<sub>2</sub>O during last month's mammoth storms by placing buckets and Tupperware containers on their back porches. The March deluge, known locally as the "pretty wet one," accounted for more than half of the savings, and grins glistened on many faces as residents earried their bounty to tanker trucks brought in to haul the liquid to less fortunate areas.

"We're happy to share what we've collected," said Water Surplus Manager Miriam Bloatstein, while wringing a turnip from the Noe Valley community garden. "When these trucks reach their destination, we'll get the signal for a mass flush of celebration," she said with obvious relief. "And then it's time to take a shower—without the flow restrictor too!"

Military helicopters fresh from the nation's victorious war with Fenwick have been retrofitted with giant sponges and are already swooping in to soak up our water and speed it to the Central Valley, where they'll squeeze their precious cargo over croplands.

Meanwhile, local artist Kitsch Cameron announced a new installation at Gallery Sanchez, "Noah's Brickyard," which will use bricks and other mixed-media removed from neighborhood toilets.

Students at St. Paul's, James Lick, and St. Phillip's put up posters advertising ear washes, but they were removed by local



Noe Valley housewife/artisan/columnist "Lo-Flo" Holub (center, in blond wig) canned and preserved over 4,000 cubic feet of rainwater last month. PHOTO BY CALISTOGA KENNARD

sanitation engineer Flood Methner, who admitted that he'd been frustrated by the small amount of litter he'd been able to collect during the storms. "Hey, it's pretty hard to paint in the rain too," he said.

But most signs of the new days of plen-

ty had an easier time making their way into the public consciousness, "We serve a pitcher of water to each customer even if it's not requested," read restaurant menus across the neighborhood—from Tsunami Fu to Thirsty Joe's.

#### Salvation for Shoppers in Hell

By Jane Thunderbird

The number of Noe Valley drivers making illegal left turns out of Hell Market's parking lot recently skyrocketed—a result of the grocery store's decision to reassign its parking lot attendant, Burt Parks, to indoor duty.

According to a spokesguy from Quality Dudes International (QDI)—the chain store that acquired Hell last year—the switch was made following a major remodeling of the store in December,

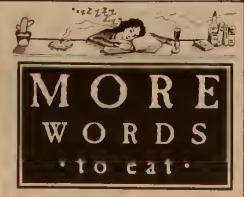
"The renovations were giving people indigestion," Guy Spokes said, "especially the old-timers over 30, who couldn't re-route themselves." The yuppies were concerned about the whereabouts of such staples as pine nuts and

olive paste, he added, and "frequently spent hours, even days, looking for food in all the wrong places."

More than a few of Hell's patrons went bananas, or couldn't find the bananas, during the reorganization. "They'd just wander around dazed and whining," recalls store manager Biff Berger. "We'd have to send one of our bag boys around to steer 'em to the checkout stand."

Berger was also polysaturated with calls from Officer Exasperillo, "ahout all the Hell customers who kept jaywalking across to Real Expensive Food Company."

In January, maps were distributed at the gates of Hell to aid those shoppers suffering from addiction to the old floor plan (some of whom have formed a 12-step



Adult Fiction

Bright Lights, Happy Donuts, by Jay McChurch, is a novel about a disillusioned young man, new to Noe Valley, who falls into a life of late-night carbohydrate-loading in his search for meaning.

Epicurean Psycho is a controversial book by Potatoes O'Brien, but its violent scenes (rump roast hacked into cubelets for stew, julienned carrots, minced pies, etc.) cannot detract from its hasic food value.

Interview with Cujo is the long-awaited collaboration by Anne Rice and Stephen King, which chronicles the 300-year history of a rabid but articulate St. Bernard vampire now living in a flat on Divisadero Street.

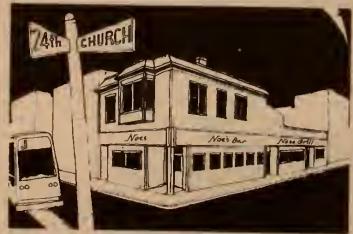
The curious of all ages will find affirmation in Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Your Diary, Nosey Parker's treatise on 'self-healing through snooping.

Comerford Alley, by Gabrielle Tin, is a saga set in the Noe Valley/Fairmount districts that captures the distinct local flavor. The epic spans four years in the lives of the tempestuous McBadden family—from the first meeting of darkly-handsome record store clerk Steele and sensuous UPS driver Danielle at a Church Street caffe, to their untimely demise in a popular produce market.

troupe, Adult Hell Addicts Anonymous—AHAA), but the maps didn't do the trick.

"So that's when we opted to pull Burt in out of the cold. Now he's directing traffic where he's most needed, at the intersection of fried chicken and wine."

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#### Muni Extends J-Church to Grand Canyon

By Cactus Barbski

At a press conference held April I, the San Francisco Municipal Railway announced long-awaited plans to extend the J-Church streetcar line to the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

"We've polled and surveyed the ridership, and they say they're not satisfied with going to Nordstrom's, which is the current terminus of the J-line," said Muni spokeswoman Fair Hike.

Once the extension is completed (now projected for 2021), the rails will run east on 30th Street to the Dolores Street juncture with Highway 280, then continue south through San Jose and Salinas, and east to Fresno, Visalia, Las Vegas, Kingman, Bumhle Bee, Prescott and Flagstaff, to the edge of the canyon.

Hike maintained that the current 85-cent fare would remain in effect, and that transfers would be applicable to scenic burro rides down the canyon, providing they do not exceed the standard two-hour limit.

But she cautioned riders that designated stops would be "few and far hetween" from Los Banos to Cornville, Ariz. "Elderly and disabled passengers would be advised to seek alternate methods of transportation between these points," she said.

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LOST: PERSTAN CAT believed held for questioning around Jan. 15 in the vicinity of Shufat's. Reward, 100-3009.





Who needs dances with wolves, when you can commute with coyotes? As this photographic rendering shows, the J-Church streetcar line will eventually travel to one of America's most popular scenic attractions—and from there it's on to Disney World. PHOTO BY CHARLIE CANARD

to the Bay Area Association were jubilant at the news, "Why, it'll be only a 12-hour commute to San Francisco now," beamed one Yucca resident with no name.

And Noe Valley businesses were quick to jump on the bandwagon. Church Street's What's for Dessert? has contracted to open What's for Desert? at Death Valley Monument, while Teepees of Charm has targeted a Flagstaff opening concurrent with the J's completion.

Hike noted that Muni's future projections also include an extension of the J-line to Disney World in Florida. "But that may not be finished until 2345."

#### APRIL FOOL'S 1991

APRIL 1: Bring your best goritta friend to a swinging DANCE teaturing the orchestra of Mighty Joe Young, playing such favorites as "I Go Ape," "Mickey's Monkey," and "Tie a Yellow Gibbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree." 7 pm. Hoty City Zoo.

APRIL 0: Martboro Country Dancing, the smokers' faction of the Scottish Country Dancing ensemble, performs "Tobacco Road" in KtLTS Ash Wednesday, 7 pm The Cork & Rat, 24th & Noe

**APRIL** -1: A workshop for vegetable-haters, "Give Peas a Chance," will be held Irom 5-7 pm. War Memorial Btdg Bring can of BEANS 501-Jean.

APRIL – 2: GLOE and OWL learn up with the NAACP, PLO, ACLU, and ASCAP to present a LECTURE "ACA, ASPCA, ATM, and NA SANE or MADD?" Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

**APRIL** — **3**: The Noe Valley Nursery School's Irist annual BABY RAFFLE otters second and third prizes of a 4-year-old and an 11-year-old (quilt not included) 11 am. Gibraltar Savings, 9801 24th St.

**APRIL – 4:** A "King-Kong" WORKSHOP addresses the plight of the big. tall and hirsute 8 pm. Empire State Building, 234 27th St

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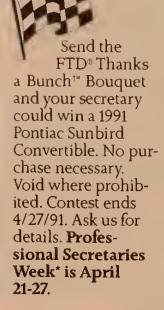


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#### **Project Mission Pride**

The students and faculty of Mission High School, 18th and Guerrero, are hoping to make a dream come true on International Service Day, the weekend of May 4 and 5, when local volunteers come together to clean, paint, rcpair, and refurbish Mission High. The event—sponsored by the Sterling Community Service Foundation, a non-profit group based in Oakland—will support the goals of Mission M, a student group that huilds school pride by encouraging teens to take part in improving the physical environment of their school.

Mission High School is one of four Bay Area schools chosen to receive help from the Sterling Foundation in 1991. Ten other schools across the United States and in Canada will also be refurbished on the first weekend in May. Although Mission High is one of the oldest and most beautiful school buildings in California, over the years it has become, according to project managers David Wilson and Meryle Mishkin, "a mess," with dirty, dark hallways, graffiti, and bathrooms without doors.

In addition to general clean-up and painting, Mission High students want to repair their bathroons, repair the stage in the auditorium, and paint murals.

Volunteers are needed not only for the big weekend, but also to help with preparatory fundraising, materials procurement, and community outreach during April. According to Sterling spokesperson Nancy Handelman, "Money is no

## SHORTTAKES

longer forthcoming from the government for what appear to be cosmetic issues. If we want to make schools better-looking places, more inviting for kids to learn in, and more inviting for teachers to teach in, we have no choice but to turn to community service."

Community members are invited to attend weekly project planning meetings heing held every Sunday in April, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the high school. Participants on May 4 or 5 will be provided with a light breakfast, lunch, and childcare. And on Sunday evening, all volunteers are invited to attend a party in celebration of the completion of Project Mission Pride.

If you or your organization would like to get involved, call Wilson (824-0374) or Mishkin (285-9476). Donations of materials, supplies, money, and "the spirit of giving" will be eagerly accepted.

#### Cinderella's Ball

On Sunday, April 21, the Noe Valley Nursery School will host its first ever Cinderella's Ball, from 4 to 6:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

A bevy of Cinderellas, princes, and fairy godmothers (from 2 to 92) will dress in their favorite fanciful garb and promenade down a red carpet, as a footman with gilded trumpet heralds their

arrival. Special effects will be created by award-winning lighting designer Novella Smith. And jewelry fit for budding royalty, designed by local artist Barbara Pope, will be on hand.

Dancing, music, games, crafts, finger sandwiches, ice cream, and other delectables should make this an event children "throughout the land" won't want to miss. Admission is \$5 per child and \$2.50 per accompanying adult, and includes six activity tickets good for food and prizes. Children over 8 years old need not bring parents.

Proceeds from the Cinderella Ball will benefit the Noe Valley Nursery School, a parent-participation preschool for 22 years. For further information, call the school at 647-2278.

#### **Earth Day Festivities**

Neighborhood residents are invited to attend a gala Earth Day celebration and "happening" on Sunday. April 21, from I to 3 p.m., in front of the Video Wave peace pole, located at 1431 Castro St. Featured guests will include the Singing Rainbows, a local youth ensemble that specializes in ecology-minded music. In addition, there will be an appearance by Mother Earth, who will lead a chorus of Earth Day songs and chants.

Alexander Gardener, of Video Wave.

Six weeks of hard work by nearly a hundred St. Paud's Primary School kids produced this mammoth papier-maché tribute to "Humphrey the Whale," unveiled diaring Ocean Week. PHOTO BY JENNIFER COOK

notes that there is also going to he "an Earth Day costume contest for kids of all ages." (The children's division is for ages 1 to 16, the adult for those 17 and up.)

"Come as your favorite animal, plant, tree, or cloud," says Candy Forest, director of the Singing Rainhows. Prizes will include a table-top peace pole, as well as Singing Rainhows tee shirts and tapes. For the scoop, call Forest at 550-7752.

#### Whale Unveiling

For one whole week last month, the teachers at St. Paul's Primary School suspended all regular classroom activities. Why? So that the entire student body (534 students, grades K-8) could participate in Ocean Week, the culmination of this year's ongoing marine science program, Project Ocean, a three- to five-year program sponsored by Ocean Alliance.

Teachers at St. Paul's try to integrate marine science into the curriculum throughout the year, but during Ocean Week, all studies were ocean-related. "Each class had a special project related to the subject, and presented their project to the other classes," said St. Paul's principal, Sister Eileen Healy. The projects focused on "ocean habitats," such as marshes and mudflats (third grade), is-

Continued on Page 23

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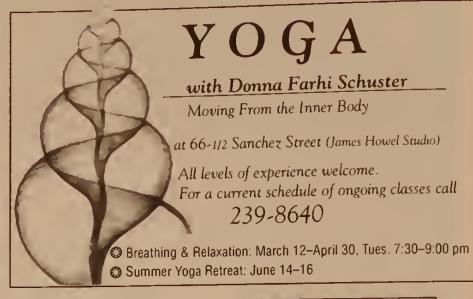
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Friday, April 12, 1991 • 6:30 pm-11:00 p.m. Saturday, April 13, 1991 • Noon-11:00 p.m. Sunday, April 14, 1991 • Noon-8:00 p.m.

Continued from Page 21

lands, (sixth grade), and rocky scashores (K-first grade).

One of the most ambitious projects was the construction-by 100 kindergartners, first-, and second-graders-of a giant "Humphrey the Whale" made from papier-mâché. It took the children six weeks to complete the 24-foot whale,

By the end of Ocean Week, all the children had rotated through all the activities and projects related to each habitat.

"We are the first Catholic school to take part in this project," noted Principal Healy. "For several months last year, we tried to get funding. When our efforts were unsuccessful, we decided to fund the project in the traditional Catholic school way, by selling candy and having a dinner."

And what was served at the dinner? You guessed it: crab.

#### Women's Clinic Moves

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, an II-year-old community clinic for women, recently moved from its former location at Mission and 21st streets, to a newly renovated site at 1748 Market St., Suite 201, at Valencia.

The clinic was a pioneer in health care services for lesbians when it opened in



#### TAKE

The Noc Valley Voice - April 1991

1979, and continues to direct its services to the lesbian and gay community, as well as to the special health care needs

General medical care, including gynecology, internal medicine, and family planning, is available to over 3,400 women each year. With the expansion in space and the continuing growth of outreach programs—such as the Lesbian and Gay Parenting Program, smoking cessation groups for mothers, substance abuse prevention groups for pregnant women, and several HIV programs for women—the center is fast becoming a local and national resource for women's health care and education.

The medical clinic is open five days and two nights a week, offers bilingual services, and accepts several health plans, including Medi-Cal and Medicare. Over 75 percent of the women served make less than \$10,000 a year, and over half do not have medical insurance.

For further information about Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, or any of the programs listed, call 565-7667.

#### Mission Art Classes

The Mission Cultural Center, located at 2868 Mission St., between 24th and 25th streets, is offering a week of free classes, from April 2-6, to kick off its spring session, which runs through June.

The multi-disciplinary arts center offers reasonably priced afternoon, evening, and Saturday classes for children and adults, including figure drawing,

samba, salsa, modern dance, photography, screen printing, and more.

Office hours are Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 to 6 p.m. For details, call Liz Fuentes Rosner, at 821-1155.

#### **Springtime Fairs**

It's spring cleaning time, and two neighborhood schools have been busy collecting cast-offs for their annual white elephant sales.

On April 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Alvarado School, 650 Douglass St., is holding its second annual spring festival, which will feature games, food (including Graciela's great burritos), a rummage sale with "lots of kid stuff," and a highnoon kickball game between students and teachers.

Proceeds from the event will go toward 1991 school programs, especially those targeted for budget cuts, such as art, music, and physical education.

"We want to get ready for next year's budget realities," said festival co-chair Francesca Lewis. "Our goal is to ensure that our children are not adversely impacted." Also, noted Cara Bowns-Collett, another parent and co-chair, "We're anxious to get reconnected with our neighhors in Noe Valley."

On April 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p m., Douglass School, an alternative elementary school located at 19th and Collingwood streets, will be hosting a carnival at the Eureka Valley Playground (next door to the school), a "garage sale" in the school cafeteria, and a food and hake sale. And in these recession times, they want folks to know that all games at the carnival can be played for the bargain rate of 25 cents.

#### **Innovative Housing**

The San Francisco Co-Housing Group is an organization of 15 households, half singles and half couples, that wants to find or build 15 to 30 units of alternative housing in San Francisco for its members. And the group is hosting a new membership orientation and potluck on Saturday, April 27, at 10 a.m.

Co-housing, explains group leader Jeff Pera, incorporates participatory design, a balance of community and privacy, shared amenitics, and resident self-management. Unlike "tenancies in common," where groups of individuals buy an apartment building together but live separately, cohousing is semi-communal, Pera adds. "It might involve sharing meals together live times a week, for example. It's Triendlier and more community-oriented, and would address different social issues. such as shared childcare and common activities."

Call Pera at 826-0174 for details and location of the membership meeting.



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#### Students from Japan Pay A Visit to Neighborhood

By Margo Weisz

Miles of land and sea were bridged as local families and their temporarily adopted Japanese exchange students participated in a "Sayonara Party" at the Noe Valley Ministry March 15.

The party marked the end of a monthlong stay in San Francisco for 14 Japanese college students, sponsored by the Cultural Homestay Institute, a non-profit educational exchange program.

The students, who hailed from three different islands in Japan, professed that their primary goal in visiting America was to perfect their English, but they seemed to find the host family experience the most gratifying part of their stay.

Yasuko Takao said her most enjoyable moments were spent talking with her American family. "I was very touched that my host mother wanted to learn about my culture. Every evening after dinner we would sit and do origami [Japanese paper-folding] together. I would show her how to make a crane, which is the traditional symbol for happiness and peace."

"The best times we had together were spent just talking," agreed Mission resident Erin Stack, who was a host sister. "My family likes the idea of getting to know people from other cultures."

Pam Rosenthal, who lives in Bernal Heights, said she was especially interested in hosting a Japanese student because her son hoped to go to Japan and was taking Japanese language classes at Lowell High School. At the beginning of the visit, conversation was limited, she said, but throughout the stay, "they all talked a lot about the cultural differences and tried to bridge some gaps."

Student Sadako Kurova worked for close to a decade in order to raise the money for her visit to the U.S. "It has been my dream to come here for nine years," she said.

Student Yasuko Takao also planned her trip far in advance. "I first heard the Beatles in elementary school. I learned English from songs like 'Yesterday' and 'I Want to Hold Your Hand,' and it became my dream to study in America."

While in the Bay Area, the students studied English at U.C. Berkeley week-day mornings, and spent afternoons touring San Francisco highlights, including the Cliff House, the Exploratorium, and the Golden Gate Bridge. Their itinerary also featured a potluck dinner at St. Paul's Church on Valley Street.

But the culminating event was the Sayonara Party, a celebration planned by the students as a participatory cultural arts exchange. The party room, on the ground floor of the Noe Valley Ministry, was filled with tables displaying different Japanese crafts, ranging from origami and calligraphy to ikebana (flower-arranging).

Many of the students came dressed in kimonos, the traditional Japanese garb, and taught their American hosts the art of obi (sash) tying.

Host families were also treated to a demonstration of *kendo*, the martial art practiced by samurai warriors in feudal Japan. Kendo is similar to judo, but employs the use of wooden sticks and staccato shrieks. During the party, the Japanese kendo artists continuously hacked their American competitors into a corner, successfully intimidating them with their shrill outbursts.

After the cultural arts display, families gathered together while the students performed a variety show, featuring both Japanese and American song, skit, and dance—even a few rounds of the Hokey-Pokey.

The party concluded with an awards ceremony, thank-you gifts, and a mutual exchange of culturally similar goodby hugs and kisses.

For information about future programs sponsored by the Cultural Homestay Institute, call Joel Pomerant: at 751-0893.

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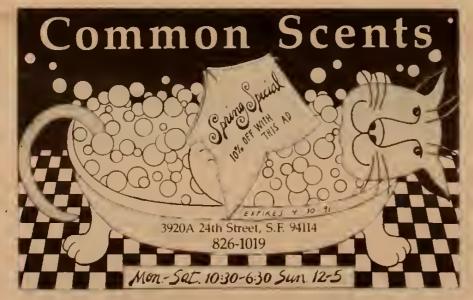
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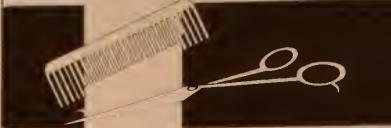
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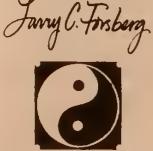
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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

#### The Blond Wig



o blonds have more fun? In our house, the answer to that question has afways been yes, although not for the reasons one might think. My story hegins on a spring day in the 1950s when I went downtown to buy Easter goodies for our three young sons. Loaded with packages, I ended up at the Emporium, where I joined a crowd of ladies clustered around a salesgirl who was giving a stimulating pitch for a new item on the market: the wig. (At that time, wigs had not yet heen marketed for the general public, and were rarely worn by anyone outside the theatrical

The sales clerk was holding up a curly, shining platinum-blond wig as she scanned the group of attentive women, searching for a likely person to model it. Since I was bare-headed and in front, she had only to lean over the counter to slip the creation onto my head. Usually I possess a healthy sales resistance, but in this case I also harbored the regret of having fost the blond of my youth to the brown of maturity. The other ladies were egging me on, laughing and saying things like, "It's you," "Just like a movie star," and "You should buy it."

I bought it aff right, paying the lady \$5 (the equivalent of \$50 today). To save time, and because I was already loaded with packages, I wore it home.

In the J-car some of the passengers gave me funny side glances, and I overheard the young man seated in front of me say to the young lady beside him (as his right shoulder jerked in my direction), "Did you know that my sister hleached her hair?" She looked at him in puzzlement, so he repeated the words several times, then said, "Oh, forget it!" It was only as I left the streetcar that I saw him resuming the conversation as they both stared at my unnaturally blond tresses.

Walking up the 21st Street hill, I had to pass one of my neighbors, a very proper lady, who was watering her flowers. She stopped, stared at my hair for a minute, and then declared, "What wifl your husband say?" That question had entered my mind, for although my husband is a patient man, our budget at the time had heen stretched to the limit with monthly dental bills for two of our sons who needed corrective hands

f got my answer as soon as Leo greeted me at the front door; his eyes and mouth flew open in astonishment, and then he doubled over in laughter, while I attempted to explain my frivolous expenditure. When he stopped laughing long enough to respond, he told me that it was welf worth the price, just for the laughs! After a good look in the mirror, it was clear to me that the only movie star I resembled was Harpo Marx. I put the sifly thing up on the closet shelf and never wore it again. But someone else did

t was just a few months later that my father came to our house one evening because his sister Maria (who kept house for him since he had been widowed) was having a "hen party," as he calted it. This was a gathering of women, mainly widows and spinsters, who got together at each other's houses for coffee, Scandinavian pastries, and conversation in their native Swedish language. My father had been banished for the evening. So, feeling a little left out, he decided it would be great funto "crash" the party disguised as one of their gender.

Soon we had him dressed up and easily passing for a lady. Decked out in a Tupperware-bowl bosom, some of my clothes and shoes, a matching purse, and the crowning blond wig, he looked just like my Aunt Maria. The next day, in fact, our neighbor Janet Pera on 21st Street said, "I saw your aunt drive off in the truck yesterday, and I must say that she handled that vehicle just like a man!" Little wonder.

Back at my father's house, the party had heen proceeding pleasantly when Aunt Maria had to answer the doorheff to admit a strange yet disturbingly familiar person who announced in a high squeaking fatsetto voice, "I am a relative of Maria Kronhofm from the old country," and then circled the room repeating his message. As he hugged each lady, they burst out with laughter, recognizing the man they knew so well. A stunned Aunt Maria was the last to penetrate his disguise, and she later told me, "I knew that she was some kind of lunny lady, but I didn't know what kind of a lunny lady." Then she happity confessed that this party was the liveliest affair the ladies had ever been treated to.

The wig again sat in the closet for a few years until Bonnie, a married school chum of mine, came to San Francisco on family business, spending evenings with us in our Noe Vattey home. During the days she was so occupied with chores that she failed to have her hair done properly for her return home. So down from the closet came an offering, the hlond wig. We laughed as she tried on the silly substitute and imagined her family's reaction. But hest of all, her ticket reservation was for the first

When she got off the plane in Seattle, her waiting husband and children were struck speechless to find their dear little mother so changed after her trip to San Francisco. My friend returned the wig in a week, saying that her family had been greatly relieved to find that it came off.

The blond wig hasn't seen active duty for several years now. But it still has a place on my closet shelf, for who knows when I might need it again?



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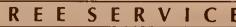


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# Notes from the Under Bush

THE NOE VALLEY BUREAU OF IN-VESTIGATION (NVBI) has uncovered a plot being hatched in Noe Valley to overthrow the government. A group calling itself the April Fools Coalition is circulating a fax that reads:

"Fellow fools: The so-called 'coalition' forces have bombed Baghdad back to the Dark Ages. Hundreds of oil fields are burning continuously into the darkened sky of Kuwait, a country in shambles (Saddam's revenge). Oil coats the beaches of the Persian Gulf. Persians and Kurds and Arabs are furiously fighting for Iraqi soil. America has now spent over 100 billion buckeroos for this fiasco and has promised tens of billions more in foreign aid. And George Bush has the nerve to declare 'victory.' (For whom?)

"Back in the U.S.A., we have our own war zone. Our leaders have chosen to cut school spending and build more prisons to house the hoards of people that we have failed to educate in either scholarship or citizenship. There is violence on our streets, now filled with homeless, hungry, and helpless people. There is no national policy for rational transportation systems or sane energy. Global environmental issues are ignored. Government, at every level, is telling us to make do with less, tighten our belts, cut essential services, hold the line, no-can-do, chump, and, by the way, pay your taxes.

"This is unacceptable! The April Fools Coalition demands that San Francisco declare its independence from the Divided States of America and become a free city with the boundaries established in 1856 (including the islands of Alcatraz, Yerba Buena, and the Farallones). We will be governed by the April Fools Coalition until free elections are held."

The coalition has also published "Ten Simple Ways to Drastically Alter the City and County of San Francisco":

- 1. Close the borders and abolish the internal combustion engine within city limits.
- 2. Tax the rich, the tourists, and the taxidermists.
- 3. Open the Presidio barracks to the homeless.
- 4. Hire more teachers and fire more school administrators.5. Rebuild all electric trolley and cable
- car lines to 1939 levels.

  6. Establish a free health care system
- for all citizens.

  7. Restore library budgets.
  - 8. Bring the boats back to our port.
- 9. Reduce crime by decriminalizing gambling, drugs, and prostitution.

10. Rebuild Playland at the Beach.

For further April Fools Coalition information, telephone 1-202-555-1212, and ask the operator for an alternative to George Bush.

Oh, I almost forgot, on the cover letter of the AFC's communiqué was the following admonition: "If this whole thing seems like a big April Fool's joke, then the joke's on you."

#### ឧឧឧ

SELECTED OUTGOING MESSAGES have also recently emerged from the un-

and now RUMORS behind the BY MAZOOK news

derground group Californians for Earthquake Prevention and Climatic Improvement (CEPCI).

You will recall that CEPCI was formed after the Quake of '89 to lobby for an end to all seismic activity in California. Now the organization has published a hooklet, "The Way We See It," containing transcripts of 30 "speeches" made on its hotline, 995-2977. (The hotline message for the third week of March, by the way, advised listeners "to make certain lifestyle sacrifices towards rain inducement, such as consuming more soups and stews, purifying your thoughts, and beginning the gratuitous flushing of toilets.")

The booklet is co-authored by Hal Bergivan and Dr. Hank Slebbinger, and is available exclusively at Cover to Cover bookstore on 24th Street. Topics include "Poultry and Global Warming," "Frenetic Urban Pace" (the chief cause of the last earthquake), and the group's "Stone Age Fantasy Camp," a Sierra-foothills getaway where "you'll learn how to make and shoot bow and arrow, and how to build shelter in the wild using only stone tools." Gee, where do I sign up?

At last check, Cover to Cover had sold out of the \$4.95 handbook, but you can expect a new shipment as soon as Hal, Dr. Hank (he's a urologist), or Cover to Cover reads this item.

#### 888

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, May 19, the date of a "Neighborhood Block Party" at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, on Sanchez between Day and 30th. The party is being sponsored by Upper Noe Neighbors, and the group is looking for some uppity Noe artists, craftspeople, musicians, dancers, and comedians who'd like to put on a real neighborhood festival.

If you have any bright ideas or special talents, give Janice Gendreau a call (641-5989). Does anybody remember the last time Noe Valley had a street fair?

While you have your calendars out, save \$25 and Sunday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., to attend a champagne brunch reception and benefit art show for the Tel Aviv Relief Fund at Rami's Caffe, 1361 Church St. The artist Dassy Shlagman will have her "primitive-expressionistic" paintings on display and for sale to support the war relief fund.

Cafe owner Rami Sternfeld has a special interest in this year's benefit (he holds one every year), because the funds collected will be designated for his hometown, the Jerusalem suburb Ramat Gan, which took two direct hits from SCUD missiles during the recent bombing wars in the Middle East.

Friends of Noe Valley is looking for a date in June to stage a Town Hall meeting in partnership with the East & West of Castro Club and Upper Noe Neighbors. The site has not yet been chosen, but the subjects, according to my FNV sources, will probably be school and library budget cutbacks; the traffic problems on Clipper, 24th, and elsewhere in the neighborhood; the proposed shift of Buena Vista's campus from Noe Valley to the

Mission; and the threatened termination of free lunches for seniors at the Noe Valley Ministry (the *Voice* got word of these last two items at press time).

Speaking of community involvement, Catholic Charities had a celebration at Guerrero House (Guerrero at 21st) on March 13 to congratulate the many community organizations and Liberty Hill residents whose collective efforts helped make the group home possible.

As you may or may not know, Guerrero House opened in July of 1990 to provide transitional housing for homeless young adults after a long organizational process that touched many people in Noe Valley.

According to GH director Eric Ciasullo, several hundred people attended the open house/party, including Mayor Art Agnos, who is an ardent supporter of the project.

#### គគគ

NOE VALLEY FILMMAKERS Chris Beaver and Judy Irving (who won an Academy Award last year for Dark Circle) have heen getting rave reviews for their newest release, Secrets of the Bay, which documents the eco-destruction of our precious San Francisco Bay. It was shown on KQED March 4, and will no doubt be repeated on channels 9, 32, or 60, or on the big screens at the Castro and Roxie theaters. Check your local listings.

Three Noe Valleons were spotted working on the production crew of the new Chevy Chase movie *Memoirs of an Invisible Man*. Loren Katner (assistant director), Dean Backer (set decoration), and Jim Baldwin (location manager) had short commutes to Market Street, Nob Hill, and South of Market, where the filming was taking place under the direction of master-horror-craftsman John Carpenter. The movie should be released by Christmas.

#### ឧឧឧ

BOTTOM OF THE BARREL: It's now time for the answers to last month's funfilled Noe quiz:

- 1. What Noe Valley store is named for a recent inductee into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame? (Everybody got this one.) St. Clair's Liquors on 24th and Sanchez, named after former San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Bob St. Clair. (He sold the store 10 years ago.)
- 2. "The Last Supper at Evian or the Fish Stinks First From the Head" is the title of a "sur-rational" painting by which well-known Noe Valley artist? Fritz Hirschberger. Fritz, who defines "sur-rational" as "beyond the reasonable," currently has a show at the Platt Gallery (University of Judaism) in Los Angeles, which is less than an hour away.
- 3. What six numbers won \$2,713,153 for a Lotto ticket purchased at Bell Market in December? Try 3, 10, 12, 19, 24 and 25. And our schools win too! (S-u-u-u-re.)
- 4. How many loaves of their famous Irish soda bread did Star Bakery sell on St. Patrick's Day? According to Star's Dwight Williams, the bakery sold 1,123

loaves on March 17, 2,550 loaves the day before, and nearly 6,500 the week previous. That's a lot of dough!

- 5. How did Shufat Market get its name? Shufat is a small village on the outskirts of Jerusalem where the market's owner, Kamal Omar, was born.
- 6. How many "For Rent" signs did RMC management company plaster on the window of the old Play With It store on 24th near Noc? The answer is 26, and the store (1,950 square feet) is still vacant.
- 7. What occupied the corner storefront at Church and 24th before National Video? Mercury Pharmacy.
- 8. Name the newly-elected members of the board of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Joining the existing seven members of the board are Andrea Rothman (the Pantry), Alison Field (Global Exchange), Diane Barrett (Indigo V). Art Uland (contractor), Karen Heather (Noe Valley Ministry). Vi Gianaras (Panos), and J.P. Gillen (Little Italy). Who are the other seven? Later.
- 9. How many feet above sea level is the Castro Street hill? According to Gladys Hansen's San Francisco Almanac, 407. Gold Mine Hill is 679 feet above sea level, and Red Rock Hill 689.
- 10. When was the first Rumors column published in the Noe Valley Voice? This column started as a group effort in the March 1981 issue (Bobby McFerrin was on the cover), and Mazook's first solo column was May 1981. Here is one of the items:

"Link lovers famenting local link loss let Noe Valley Deli mogul Karim Balat know of their dissatisfaction with his recent decision to stop serving the popular hot link. The uproar has moved the links back on the menu, but Karim warns that supplies go fast after his weekly Thursday deliveries. Wednesday is definitely not Link Lovers Day."

#### គគគ

SIGN LANGUAGE: I will leave you and all the members of the April Fools Coalition this month with two thoughts, neither of them mine. Credit goes to Church Street resident Dean Bistline, who has put up a sign in his window (near the southeast corner of Clipper), stating, "I love my country. I fear my government."

The other was Bistline's astute observation that appeared in the Letters section of the March 18 San Francisco Chronicle: "Editor: The Democrats face a dismal horizon in 1992. President Bush has the money, the land, the votes, and the guns."



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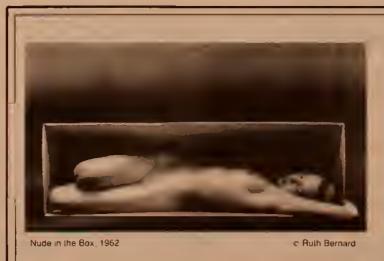
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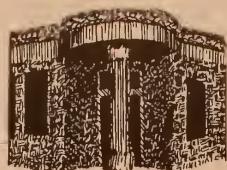
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finished, the Tripps have a great family

room, Mimi notes, where she and Alice often hang out. What does Alice prefer to do in her free time? "Bomh around in

her new inflatable walker, chasing our dog Dudley (a cross between a German

shepherd, a heagle, a pointer, and a

Mimi and Alice also like to visit their neighbors on either side: long-time resi-

dent Nellie Johnson, Alice's "surrogate grandmother," and 92-year-old George Youngman Jr., who called the Tripps

when Alice was five days old, to proudly announce that he'd thought of something

he and Alice had in common: "I'm proh-

ably the oldest person living on Elizabeth.

Alice is also blessed with two sets of

"I didn't realize how Alice would make

Street, and Alice is probably the youngest."

real grandparents, who, although they

live back east, manage fairly frequent

me feel part of a bigger whole," Granger

says. "But she's given me a real sense

of continuity. It's what family really

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arrange for the family portrait.

fox)," says Moin.

means."

#### ORE MOUTHS · to feed ·

By Jane Underwood

#### Alice Martin Tripp

Elizabeth Street residents Granger Tripp and Mimi Downes would like to announce the long-awaited arrival of their first child, Alice Martin Tripp, horn Sept. 27, 1990, at 5:28 p.m. Alice weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces at birth, and was named after her grandmother, Mary Alice, and her great-grandmother, Alice,

When asked to describe his daughter, Granger was momentarily at a loss for

"Alice—let's see here," he began. But he quickly warmed to his subject. "Alice is the most wonderful kid in Noe Valley," he declared. "She laughs and smiles with vigor. Her crying is acceptable—she does know how. I'd say all she needs is a little work in the sleeping category.

Mimi concurs. "She is a wonderful baby. And she looks quite a bit like my husband—not too much hair on top, beautiful, crisp, dark-blue eyes, and very big cheeks. But if there's a down side to Alice, it's her sleeping habits. I'd be a perfect candidate for a sleep deprivation study!"

Granger, who works at a brokerage firm, and Mimi, now a full-time mother (with dreams of someday "owning my

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Granger Tripp and Mini Downes have had their hands full with baby Alice, who has joined the family dog, Dudley, in a newly remodeled Elizabeth Street home. PHOTO BY LORENE WARWICK

own shop, either a children's store or a gift gallery"), met in 1974, during their freshman year in college.

"I had a big crush on him," Mimi recalls. "Then one day he walked into my English class and sat down next to me.' They dated for six years, lived together for five, and were married in 1985, moving to Noe Valley in 1987. When asked if he'd had a crush on Mimi too, Granger hedged a bit, and then gave the perfect answer: "No, but I do now!"

The couple (they're both 34) had their house remodeled during the pregnancy, and weren't able to move back in until a week after Alice's birth. Granger says he doesn't recommend "remodeling a house and having a baby at the same time. We're still trying to get things back in place."

But now that the remodeling's



Mimi Downes presided over a meeting last October between five-day-old daughter Alice and next-door neighbor George Youngman, age 92.

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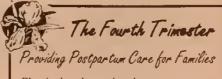
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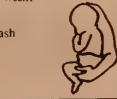
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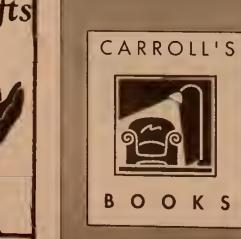






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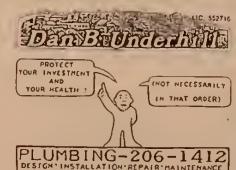
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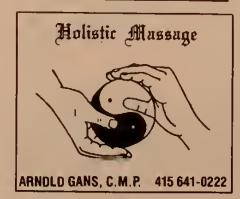
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DEEP RELAXATION WORKSHOP Stress can become a way of life when the body and mind develop patterns around it. Learn how to use deep relaxation (yoga nidra) in creative ways to release physical and mental tension. Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$5. For more information please call Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-

GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT, business hackground, seeks position as personal assistant to busy professional. Domestic chores, travel plans, business/schedule planning. Will consider live-in 252-8248.

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EASEFUL TECHNIQUES for stressful times. Using the rich variety of guidelines available in yoga, we can learn to take charge of stressful situations rather than being tossed and controlled by them. This workshop will explore the ways we react to stress and how we can put those guidelines to work for us. Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., \$5. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

SOFA WITH FIRM BACK. Neutral colors, \$4 inches long, Perfect condition. \$250. Call 584-8173.

JOB WANTED by thoughtful, sincere woman, as trainee in florist shop, bookstore, or physician's office. 21 years' hospital experience. 282-6631.

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KARATE FOR KIDS! Get strong! Have fun! Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Randi, 648-9598.

MEDITATION WORKSHOP. These are practical workshops that will enable students to begin earnest meditation on their own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable experience will be presented Taught by Vijay Fontaine. Tuesday, April 30, 7:30 to 9 p.m., \$5. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

ELEGANT MUSIC FOR WEDDINGS, parties. Piano, guitar, lute. Gene Lewis, 695-9335.

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SKI LOVERS-TAHOE GETAWAY1 Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village, Near Squaw Valley, Alpine, Heavenly, and South Shore casinos. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call for special rates, 282-7955.

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#### How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The May issue of the Voice will appear April 30. Please mail your ad and check - made payable to the Noe Valley Voice—so that we receive it by April 15. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope

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APRIL 1-18: "Students by Students" showcases the ART of undergraduates working in a variety of media including sculpture, painting, printmaking, photography, textiles and ceramics. Mon.-Fri., noon-4 pm. Room 201, Arts and Industry 81dg., San Francisco State University, 1600 Holtoway St. 338-2176.

APRIL 1-MAY 17: Gatlery Sanchez exhibits "God's 8ody," ARTWORK by Joan Krug, Cornelia Nevilt, and Joanne Wohtfeld Reception April 7, 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Gallery hours: Mon.-Sat. noon-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-3448.

APRIL 3: Natural Resources and the Fourth Trimester present an open PUBLIC FORUM, "The Immunization Ouestion," leaturing a panel including Noe Vatley's lamily doctor Jim Schwanke, Larkspur pediatrician Ileoma Ikenze, and Randat Neustaedler, a specialist in integrating homeopalhy, acupuncture, and modern medicine. 7 pm. Immaculate Conception Academy, 3625 24lh St. 550-2611

APRIL 3, 17 & 24: Enjoy songs. stories, poems, and lingerplays with your baby or loddler at the Noe Vatley Library LAPSITS, 7 pm. 451 Jersey St 695-5095.

**APRIL 4: San Francisco Community** College offers a luition-tree nine-week CLASS, "Challenges for Women Over 40 " 6:30 pm. Everett Middle School, 17th & Church 826-6230.

APRIL 4-MAY 5: TALE SPINNERS Theatre performs two works in repertory. Homework, an examination of a week in the lives of live Tendertoin prostitutes who retuse to be victims, and Dangerous Beauty: or Love in the Age of Earthquakes and AIDS. Ctimale Thealre, 252 9th St. Calt 626-9196 tor reservations and times.

APRIL 4-MAY 23: Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services sponsors free STOP-SMOKING CLASSES for mothers of young children. Calt Carmela Rosales at 565-7682 for times and tocation.

APRIL 5: GAY HISTORIAN and author John D'Emilio discusses Since Stonewall: A Historical Overview of the Contemporary Lesbran/Gay Movement. 8 pm. Modern Times 8 ookstore, 968 Vatencia SI. 282-9246

APRIL 5 & 6: Merte "lan Shoales" Kesster and Josh "Raout" Brody host "An Evening of SDNG: Death, Taxes and Other Inevitabilities," with Laurie Amat, Brian Lohmann, PMS, Fratelli 8otogna, and the Ethet Merman Memoriat Choir 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

APRIL 5 & 6: City College of S.F.'s Physical Education Dept. presents "Gtobat Vittage OANCE CONCERT." Choreographies by faculty and students witt include modern, ballet, folk, and African-Haitian dance forms, 8 pm. City Jottege Theatre. Phelan & Judson. 239-3420.

APRIL 6: Adults and children over 8 can make exact replicas of their faces with plaster-cast impressions at a Randall Museum WDRKSHOP, 1 pm. 199 Museum Way 554-9600

APRIL 6: Good used clothing for adults and children, lurniture, electronic equipment, books, records, and other miscellany will be up for grabs at 8ethany Methodisi Church's RUMMAGE SALE 10 am-4 pm, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393

APRIL 6: Artists' Television Access screens FILMS by Lynne Sachs including House of Science, a "museum of false facts about femininity." 8.30 pm. 992 Valencia St.

APRIL 6 & 7: Fellowship Theatre Guitd presents Pepper Smith's "Arabesque Concert Dance" with Irene Haughey's "Los Flamenco's Del Rio" in two evenings of modern 8ALLET and FLAMENCD dance 8:30 pm. 2041 Larkin St. 346-1990.

APRIL 6, 13 & 20: L'Eau Theque (low-tech) Productions presents "Shazki RUSSIAN TALES of Footishness and Wisdom," a collection of folk tales for all ages. 1 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, 554-9600 or 665-5619.

APRIL 7: Allen 8ennet of the American Jewish Congress discusses the FUTURE OF JEWRY in the U.S. at a meeting of the Society for Humanistic Jews. 4.30 pm. U.C. Laurel Heighls, 3333 California St. 239-6785.

**APRIL 8:** San Francisco Community Music Center celebrates its 70th anniversary with 'A Salute fo the Joy of Making Music," an evening of ethnic and CLASSICAL MUSIC, wine and hors d'oeuvres. 5:30-7.30 pm, Greens Restaurant, Fort Mason. 647-6015



A spunky Red Riding Hood confronts a lascivious wolf in the School of the Arts production of Sondheim's Into the Woods, premiering April 19 PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

APRIL 8-12: Panet discussions, titms, informational tables, and a multi-cultural prayer service are among the events scheduled for the University of San Francisco's AIDS AWARENESS WEEK Golden Gate Ave. between Parker & Masonic. Calt 666-6207 tor a schedule of events.

APRIL 8, 15, 22 & 29: Options for Women Over Forty offers an orientation session on TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT opportunities for midlile women. 1 pm. 3543 18th St. 431-6405.

APRIL 9: Rose Pielfer, Women's Cancer Resource Center health activist, lectures on "WOMEN AND CANCER. Politics and Prevention." 12:30-2 pm. City College Student Union, Lower Level, Ocean & Phelan, 239-3580.

APRIL 14: An exotic pet 8IRD CARE seminar covers taming and training, nutrition, health care, and normal and problem behavior. Noon-4 pm. SF/ SPCA Education Resource Center, 2500 16th St. 554-3000.

APRIL 14: Operation Concern's Gay and Lesbian Oufreach to Elders invites older lesbians and their friends to a WOMEN'S VIDEO presentation: "Two in Twenty (A Lesbian Soap Opera)." 3-5 pm. Francis of Assisi, 145 Guerrero St. 626-7000.



Metropolis mixes up an all-improvised evening of comedy at the Noe Valley Ministry April 12.

APRIL 9-MAY 5: In conjunction with the Black and While Ball, the San Francisco WOMEN ARTISTS Gallery showcases an all black and white (with one optional color) art show. Tues. - Sat., 11 am-6 pm; Thurs. untit 8 pm. 370 Hayes St. 552-7392.

APRIL 12: Metropolis, an allimprovised COMEDY REVUE, presents a panorama of unique characters, scenes, and songs based on audience suggestions, 8:15 pm, Noe Vatley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 588-0184.

APRIL 16 & 17: CLU8 FOOT ORCHES-TRA premieres a new soundirack for Fritz Lang's 1926 film Metropolis. 7 and 9:30 pm. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. 621-6120.

APRIL 17: Joani 8lank presents a WORKSHOP on female sexuality tor men onty, offering tips on communicalion and women's needs and desires. 7-9 pm. Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia Sr. 550-7399.

APRIL 18-MAY 19: Noe Valley's resident comedian MARGA GOMEZ premieres her tirst solo theatricat piece, 'Memory Tricks," a lunny, sad, and true story about mother-daughfer bonding, high heels and Atzheimer's. Thurs.-Sun., 8 pm. The Marsh (in back of Cafe Beano), 878 Vatencia St. 641-0235.

APRIL 19: Noe Valley Movies' SCIENCE FICTION Film Fest features the 1957 classic Kronos, in which "a planet robber tramples the earth," and 1954's Target Earth, advertised to cause "raw panic the screen never dared to reveal." 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

APRIL 19 & 20: Cine Acción celebrates 11 years of LATINO FILM/VIOEO screenings with a program of recently released works on labor and illegat immigranfs, "Latino: Land y Labor." 346 9th St. Catl 553-8135 for times.

APRIL 19-21, 26 & 27: Students from San Francisco's School of the Arts perform STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S Tony Award-winning musical Into the Woods: 7 30 pm; 2:30 pm only April 21 School of the Arts Theatre, McAteer High School, 555 Portota Orive. 695-5720.

APRIL 19 & 20: San Francisco State University's annual senior CHOREOG-RAPHY SHOWCASE highlights the talents of graduales in the Oepartment ol Oance, 8 pm, Room 106, Gym, 1600 Holloway Ave. 338-2062.

APRIL 21: The Noe Valley Nursery School hosts its first CINOERELLA 8ALL, an afternoon of fantasy dress-up, dancing, music, games, crafts, and food. 4-6:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez SI 647-2278

APRIL 23: FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am include Harold and the Purple Crayon, The Little Engine That Could, and One Was Johnny. Children 6 and older can see Caterpillar and the Wild Animals, Juggling Movie, Lenlil, and Sand Castle at 3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

APRIL 20: Eric and Suzy Thompson perform eclectic old 8LUES AND CAJUN music, and Danny Carnahan and Robin Petrie play fheir arrangements of old Irish, French, and English songs with hammered dutcimer. strings, and voices, 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Sf. 647-2272.

APRIL 21: Several contributors from the new anthology Bi Any Other Name: BISEXUAL PEOPLE Speak Out with read from their work. 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246

APRIL 21: The Singing Rainbows Youth Ensemble will perform at an EARTH DAY celebration held in front of the peace pole at Video Wave. Adults and children are encouraged to come dressed as their lavorite animat, plant, free, or cloud. 1-3 pm. 1431 Castro Sf.

APRIL 25: ALICE WALKER will read briefly and sign copies of her new collection of poetry, Her Blue Body Everything We Know: Earthling Poems, 1965-1990 Complete. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tates, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675

APRIL 26 & 27: Physical comedian/ mime/actor/film star GEOFF HOYLE performs two evenings of world premieres and greatest hifs. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

APRIL 27: "Living with a Rape Survivor" is a two-part GROUP for women and men sponsored by San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR) and Men Overcoming Violence (MOVE). 10 am=noon. Call 861-2024 for location and information.

APRIL 28: Two Italian-American FEMINIST AUTHORS, theatre artist Michelle Linfante and editor of la bella ligura Rose Romero, will read from their writings. 7 pm. Modern Times 800kstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

#### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, Items are published on a spaceavailable basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note The next issue of the Voice will appear April 30, but will cover May calendar events. The deadline for calendar items is April 15



APRIL 13: Five of the 8ay Area's hottest horn-players team up in "CLARINET THING" to perform a range of music from Ellington to original works, 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

APRIL 13 & 14: Find myriad treasures at Live Oak School's GARAGE SALE. All day. Diamond & 18th. 285-3351.

APRIL 13-30: Eureka Valley ARTIST Anna Gadshy exhibits her drawings paintings, and etchings af California, a gallery of fashion art and jewelry by Calilornia designers. Reception: April 13, noon-5 pm. 2342 Market St.

826-7760

